Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the proposal to hold a referendum on the issue of granting improved status to guest workers in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce awards five high school students educational scholarships.

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Health Incentive

How much money would it take to get you to lose some serious weight?

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CUC running out of fuel

» Power outages imminent beginning this weekend

"The problem this time is not about power generation, but not having enough money to pay for our fuel."
—Tony Muña, CUC executive director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two years ago, the islands suffered rampant power outages due to poor power generation and services. This time, it will mainly be due to the lack of fuel for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plants.

See CUC on Page 4

Girl, 15, knocked unconscious, raped at beach

CONTACT INFO
Crime Stoppers
- Hotline: 234-7272
- Web site: www.nmicrimestoppers.com

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 15-year-old student who was walking near the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club was hit on the head and raped while unconscious last week.

NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong said yesterday that investigators are eyeing two males as suspects.

The victim, a local resident of Chalan Kanoa, sustained injuries in the head and groin. Her face was also swollen, Tarkong told *Saipan Tribune.*

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Hanwha buys Saipan World Resort

Saipan World Resort in Susupe has changed ownership from World Construction Co. to Hanwha Resort, a leader in Korea's resort and leisure industry, and hotel guests have started seeing improvements in the family-friendly facility.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hanwha Resort, a leader in Korea's resort and leisure industry, bought the Saipan World Resort in Susupe from World Construction Co.

"Our hotel became the newest member of the Hanwha Hotels and Resorts on January 29, 2010," Saipan World Resort public relations and local market team manager Carmen C. Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail re-

See HANWHA on Page 4

US, CNMI GOVTS' TUG-OF-WAR ON IMMIGRATION

Chamber: We are caught in the middle

Brennan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan said the Chamber and its members are caught in the middle of the U.S. and CNMI governments' tug-of-war over immigration and labor regulations and issues.

While the federal government

See CHAMBER on Page 4

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Local

$40 investigation fee for CUC's water customers OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has approved a $40 meter investigation fee for water customers.

The formal decision, expected this week, will be inserted in the Administrative Regulation Section 50-30-601.

The decision was initially reached last Friday, the same day the commission agreed to the proposed water and wastewater rates.

Abe Utu Malae, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assistant executive director, said yesterday the fee is similar to the existing amount being collected for investigation of electric meters.

The difference is that the fee may not be imposed if it is determined that the meter is malfunctioning or CUC is at fault, he said.

"If the meter is found to be working fine, then the customer is charged. If the meter is malfunctioning or if CUC is at fault, the customer does not pay," he said.

Malae said the purpose of the fee is to pay for the cost of responding to the call. It also serves as a deterrent for calls whose purpose is to delay payment of an account.

Malae said the agency may also waive the fee for the indigent.

In its testimony filed last month, CUC initially asked the commission to approve a $60 charge for technical investigations, typically for meter complainants. This was later lowered to $40 after discussions with both consultants of the CPUC and CUC. It will be in effect as soon as CUC submits its financial reports for 2007 and 2008.

CUC earlier said that when customers complain about their meters not working right, the agency incurs costs such as sending technicians out to the customer's premises.

It is also the purpose of the fee to separate the real complaints from illegitimate ones. CUC believes that many of the demands are fake and are intended to put off paying legitimate bills. Under current regulations, a customer is allowed to put off paying for a contested bill while the matter is under investigation.

There are over 2,000 outstanding bill protests at the agency; CUC said that many of these customers refuse to pay their bills.

PSS to dispute water charges

The Public School System is investigating water use at all its campuses on three islands after learning that some public schools were being excessively charged for water.

Last week, it was reported to the Board of Education that a number of Rota and Tinian schools were being charged excessively for water use. PSS will be contesting the billings in the next few weeks as soon as all documents are completed.

PSS is among government and independent agencies that have significant arrears with CUC. Because of these longstanding obligations, CUC had threatened to stop servicing these agencies, including the central government and the Northern Marianas College.

CUC said it wants to collect on these outstanding amounts because it needs to buy fuel.

Rota road projects facing delays due to private lots

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

Rota roads are taking on a new look with ongoing projects that aim to repair damaged portions and make old paths more contemporary, but setbacks relating to private lands the roads go through could stall the projects.

According to David Manglona of the Department of Public Works on Rota, there are currently three major projects being done on Routes 10, 11, and 100.

The land along Route 100 is mostly private property and DPW is negotiating with landowners to work on privately owned portions of the road.

"The Highway Administration has withheld funding because some private landowners won't let them through or touch their lands because they feel that that they need to be compensated. Because of this issue… they have stalled," said DPW's Frank Atalig.

Manglona said they are trying to reach a compromise with landowners "through land exchange or monetary compensation."

Figures relating to construction costs were unavailable during the phone interview with Manglona, but he told *Saipan Tribune* that the Federal Highway Administration is funding the three projects.

Two engineering firms have been hired to repair and construct the roads. JC Tenorio & Associates, Inc. has been doing emergency road repairs on routes 10 and 100 for about a month.

Manglona said that damage sustained during tropical storms and other natural occurrences is being repaired on Route 10.

Work on Route 100 is about 33 percent completed. As Rota's main highway, many farmers, workers, and tourists use Route 100 on a daily basis. "It is a very important road on the island," Manglona said, adding that it dates back to Japanese times. A huge crack of about 20 feet will be repaired.

EM Chen & Associates Inc. is working on Route 11, which leads up to Mount Savannah and is a roughly a mile long. Manglona predicts it "will be completed in about one year."

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AMENDED
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, June 04, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. QUALIFIED ALLOCATION PLAN (QAP)
   A. Adoption of the QAP

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. OTHER MATTERS
   A. OPA 1% Update

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/ MERCED M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Whopping 81 percent increase in May vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vehicle sales increased by a whopping 81 percent in May due to a combination of factors that include pent up demand for new vehicles, the effects of recalls, and increased customer confidence.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association reported yesterday that it sold 47 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles in May, compared to 26 during the same month last year.

This brings to 276 the total number of vehicles that the three-member CADA sold so far this year, a 79-percent increase over the same period last year.

Douglas Brennan, president of CADA, said the big increase is welcome news, although the industry does not expect this trend throughout the year. Among other things, the sales boost resulting from recalls that gave motorists a chance to repurchase will be short-lived.

He said the sales for the second half is not expected "to be as strong" as the first half.

"People are still nervous about spending their money," he said, referring to the long-awaited release of the final federal regulations governing foreign workers, foreign investors and tourists in the CNMI.

Microl Corp., the authorized dealer of new Toyotas and Chevrolets, again sold the most number of vehicles with 19 units in May, a 27-percent increase from 15 last year.

Since January, Microl has sold 131 new units, marking an 82-percent increase from only 72 last year.

Joeten Motors posted an 87-percent sales increase in May, from eight to 15. Joeten Motors is the authorized local dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia Its year-to-date sales grew by 107 percent, from 44 to 91.

Triple "J" Motors sold 13 units in May, a 333-percent increase from only three sold during the same month last year. This brings to 54 the total number of vehicles it sold so far this year, a 42-percent growth from last year. Triple "J" Motors is the local dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda.

CNMI consumers bought more cars than any other type of new vehicles. CADA sold 20 news cars, 17 news SUVs, seven trucks, and three vans.

Among cars, Mazda3 sold the most units in May with four. CADA also sold three units each of Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry, and Toyota Yaris; two units each of Hyundai Accent and Toyota Corolla; and one unit each of Ford Mustang, Kia Soul, and Nissan Maxima.

Hyundai Tucson led the SUV market with five units sold in May. Also sold were three units each of Toyota 4 Runner and Toyota RAV4; and one unit each of Mazda CX7, Mazda CX9, Nissan Murano, Nissan Rogue, Nissan Xterra, and Toyota Highlander.

Toyota Tacoma sold the most trucks in May with three, followed by Ford Ranger and Nissan Frontier with two units each.

Only three vans were sold in May: Two Ford E-Van, and one Toyota Sienna.

CADA also sold 19 used or secondhand vehicles in May, bringing to 120 the total sold so far this year.

2 new doctors at CHC after summer

Two new doctors are expected to join the Commonwealth Health Center's physician workforce beginning this month.

Esther Muña, acting Public Health deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* that one of the two new doctors will be coming soon while the other one is expected after summer.

Dr. Sherleen Osman was hired for two years beginning this month. She will join Dr. Saied Safabakhsh at the Nephrology Section.

Muña said Osman has worked at CHC before as a locum—doctors with short-term contracts of three months.

The Internal Medicine Section is also expected to have another physician soon. Muña confirmed that Dr. Vincent Stravino has signed a two-year contract with the hospital and will begin work after summer. He will join Drs. Chad Lowe, Esther Kanayjorn, Joel Reed Smith, and Hazel Christine Brown at the department.

On Friday, Muña said the hiring of two more doctors will boost hospital services. She praised all current physicians for their dedication and patience just to meet all patients' needs.

As of yesterday, CHC has a total of 24 physicians, with two working on short-term contracts. Two physician assistants are also with the Emergency Medicine Section: Drs. Michael Carney and Jonathan Corrigan.

Last week, the Department of Public Health applied for a J-1 visa waiver with the Department of Homeland Security so it could recruit non-U.S. nationals for the hospital. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Triple J Wholesale
World Tour and Travel
WSTCO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PIBBA raffle drawing postponed

The Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association CNMI Chapter would like to inform the public that its raffle drawing scheduled for June 4 has been rescheduled to June 11. ***(PR)***

SBA-USDA workshop today at PIC

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a joint SBA-USDA workshop today, June 3. The all-day workshop will cover, in the morning, *SBA Joint Venture/Mentor/Protégé Procurement Programs*, and in the afternoon, *Financing Opportunities For Your Business Needs Today For the Challenges of Tomorrow*. Conducting the training will be Kenneth Q. Lujan, Guam branch manager, U.S. Small Business Administration; Jack Corbett, Business Development specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration; and Joseph M. Diego, Area II director, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The workshop will take place in the Annex Room of PIC's Magellan Restaurant. Registration begins at 8:30am, the morning session is from 9am to noon, and the afternoon session is from 1:30pm to 4pm. The meeting is $25 per person for Chamber members and $35 for non-members, and includes lunch at PIC's Magellan dining room. Seating is limited and reservations are required. To make reservations, contact Janice Tenorio at 233-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

Oleai school PTSA meeting set

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Art exhibition at Hopwood

The CNMI Public School System will be holding the Art Exhibit and Performance Festival on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Hopwood Junior High School from 10am-5pm. Art exhibit and performances from public school students from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will be on display throughout the event. The general public is invited to join us in this celebration of talent and diversity. For questions and concern contact 237-3014. ***(PR)***

Free fitness classes at Kagman center

The Kagman Komunidat Association is conducting free fitness classes at the Kagman Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm. Only 15 participants will be accommodated per class so make your reservations soon. Participants must bring an exercise mat, sweat towel, exercise shoes, and drinking water. Any hotels or businesses that wish to donate mats can contact KKA. To reserve a spot, vall Greg DL Guerrero at 285-4007 or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NMI Democrats seek new members

The New NMI Democrats will be registering new members on Saturday at 5pm at Minachom Atdao. Registration is free and dinner will be provided. The purpose of the registration is for future primary elections and for the inclusion of the NMI Democrats into the United States Democratic Party. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship Office deadlines

■ Deadline for Application: July 1, 2010

■ Deadline for supporting documents: Sept. 30, 2010

PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program Deadlines

■ Who may apply? High school graduates of 2010

■ Deadline for application and supporting documents: June 30, 2010 Application and supporting documents must be received by the CNMI Scholarship Office on or before June 30, 2010. Visit www.cnmischolarship.com to download application and for more information. For more information, call the CNMI Scholarship Office at 664-4750; fax 664-4759. ***(PR)***

CUC

From Page 1

CUC executive director Tony Muña disclosed yesterday that the islands' power plants are now running on fumes and there is a "clear possibility" that they will be forced to shut down beginning this weekend.

With no power to run its water wells and distribution system, piped water would also cease to flow.

"We want to alert the public to the realistic possibility that we may not have power this weekend. The problem this time is not about power generation, but not having enough money to pay for our fuel," Muña said.

Overall, CUC needs $1.5 million today to place an order for its fuel requirements so CNMI-wide power outages will be averted this weekend.

Based on its fuel projection summary, Saipan's Power Plant 1 will run out of fuel on June 5 at 12pm. CUC needs to pay its supplier $431,474 today so fuel could be delivered Friday. If paid on time, this supply will last until June 9.

Power Plant 4 is also expected to run out of fuel on Friday, June 4, also at 12pm. CUC needs to place an order for $364,698 so it could receive fuel delivery on Friday. This order is expected to last until June 11.

Muña said they bought Rota's fuel supply yesterday but it was very minimal and would not last long. Rota is expected to run out of fuel on June 4 at midnight and needs to buy $46,072 worth of supply that will last until June 12.

Tinian is also expected to run out of fuel on June 17 at 8am. CUC needs to buy $657,338 worth of fuel for Tinian that will last until July 15.

Mobil supplies CUC's fuel.

Muña admitted that no clear action has been identified yet as of yesterday noon on how to address this problem. Muña first informed both the Legislature and the Fitial administration on May 19 about CUC's fuel supply status.

The central government is CUC's biggest customer and is behind on its payments by about four months. CUC requires $1.2 million in weekly payments from the administration but Muña disclosed that it has only been able to pay $700,000 per week. CUC has already issued a notice of disconnection to the central government last Friday.

Muna, who has already resigned from CUC and is just waiting for his replacement, said that CUC has improved its operations, particularly power generation, in the two years he had worked at the agency. Capable professionals were also brought in and maintenance of power plants and engines were also initiated.

"Now the situation is our generators are working fine…but these generators will not run without fuel," he said.

Muna said the solution to the fuel problem lies with the government, which has to identify, reprogram, or appropriate money for the obligation.

"We cannot continue to obligate money that is intended for non-fuel vendors. We have other obligations that need to be addressed and it's important in our operation," he said.

Muña also expressed frustration with the Legislature's indecisiveness when it comes to addressing key problems at CUC.

$300K for deposit

Press secretary Angel Demapan said last night that the Finance Department has already identified some money to address the fuel concern.

"In the interim, the acting Finance secretary has identified $300,000 that will be deposited into CUC's account tomorrow," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the administration is now exploring its options to address the remaining shortfall.

Demapan did not elaborate on the funding source for the $300,000.

"It is a very critical situation. However, the governor cannot reprogram funds in the absence of legislation that would grant him such authority. We hope that the Legislature will soon be able to introduce a reprogramming measure to ensure that such occurrences can be addressed in a timely manner," he added.

Demapan said the administration is committed to taking proper actions that are permissible by law and regulations to address these matters.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

says the CNMI has lost control over its foreign workforce, the CNMI government says otherwise.

Adding to the confusion is the lack of final federal regulations governing foreign workers and foreign investors.

In his address to Chamber members and guests yesterday at the monthly membership meeting, Brennan shared with the audience the frustration of Chamber members with the ongoing tug-of-war between the local and federal governments and the economic problems faced by the CNMI.

Members of the Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, said the CNMI should live within its means, realize that the islands need a motivated and educated workforce, and a viable customer base to support the motivated and educated workforce.

"We need clarity in our labor and immigration laws. The CNMI and the U.S. need to get together," Brennan told members and guests yesterday.

Uncertainty

Brennan, in a separate written message to Chamber members, said the local and federal governments are making the Chamber "busy guessing."

The CNMI Department of Labor will soon implement new labor regulations pursuant to Public Law 17-1.

"How these new regulations will mesh with or conflict with the federal regulations is unknown at this time. The same uncertainty applies to immigration," Brennan said.

The Department of the Interior recommends an improved status for guest workers in the CNMI, but Brennan said that Interior failed to detail the degree of improvement, leaving that to the U.S. Congress to decide—"a decision that probably won't be made for at least two years."

"The CNMI government strongly objects to the recommendations. Again, the Chamber and its members are caught in the middle," Brennan said.

Interior recommended to the U.S. Congress to allow the granting of long-term status to foreign workers who have legally resided in the CNMI for at least five years. The five options include conferring these alien workers U.S. citizenship, permanent residency leading to citizenship, or a status similar to those given to Freely Associated States citizens.

The Chamber also expressed concern about Interior's method of doing a survey, involving just 10 businesses to determine the CNMI's current and future needs for foreign workers.

Through the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, the U.S. Department of Labor had a teleconference with the Chamber on the mechanics of the visa waiver programs.

"USDOL restricted their input to professional and temporary worker visas and referred all questions on visas for skilled, permanent workers to the Department of Homeland Security and/or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Round and round and round we go. Where we stop, nobody knows," he said.

The lack of solid information as to future availability of an adequate customer base or workforce precludes the Chamber's ability as businesses to properly forecast and qualify their budgets for the coming years.

"We are unsure if our businesses will remain viable," Brennan added.

HANWHA

From Page 1

sponse to media questions yesterday.

Saipan World Resort is one of the most popular hotels in the CNMI with 265 guestrooms, all with beautiful views of the ocean. It also features a spectacular water park called the Wave Jungle.

World Construction Co., also a Korean company, acquired Diamond Hotel 10 years ago, and reinvented it into a remarkable water park resort called Saipan World Resort.

Saipan World Resort's new owner is one of the affiliate firms under Hanwha Group, one of the largest conglomerates in South Korea with businesses related to resorts and hotels, condominiums, retail, logistics, shipping, construction, telecommunications, securities, insurance, home décor, chemicals and explosives.

Despite the change in ownership, Saipan World Resort retains its name.

"We have bigger dreams for Saipan World Resort, which have been laid out on our five-year plan. Our hotel guests and the local community as well are already experiencing some of the changes that have taken place. First and foremost that we always think about is the comfort and satisfaction of our guests from our high standard of service which we aim to provide at Saipan World Resort," Cabrera added.

Cabrera invites the local community to visit the resort and see the difference in coming months.

"It is only then that you will realize and experience the changes, particularly renovations. Every hotel must go through some type of renovation to 'keep up with the trends' to maintain the satisfaction of our guests," she added.

The negotiations took about six months, before final decisions were made.

"As for the price tag that was pegged, I am not at liberty to disclose that type of information. What matters is that we are here, stronger and more global. We are here to serve our community as we deem fit to benefit them," Cabrera added.

Korean media reported that the final purchase price was 28 billion won or $24.27 million.

One of the employees at Saipan World Resort said the change in ownership also resulted in better benefits for employees like him.

"We get more benefits, and this is good," said the employee, who has been with the hotel for at least four years.

GIRL

From Page 1

Tarkong said the student had gone to a neighbor's house on Thursday after arriving from school.

At 4:30pm, as she was walking by the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club on her way home, a white pickup truck with two male occupants passed her.

The truck stopped and started to back up. The girl turned around and continued walking. Suddenly, someone hit her head from behind, causing her to black out.

When she regained consciousness a few hours later it was already dark, Tarkong said. The student realized she was naked and was at Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa, not far from the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club.

The victim walked home and told family members, who then called police. The girl was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where it was confirmed that she had been raped.

Tarkong said it was not clear whether the girl was punched or was hit with an object.

Tarkong said investigation is also ongoing whether both suspects raped the student.

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the community to solve this kidnapping and rape incident.

"Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our Web site www.nmicrimestoppers.com. It pays to call," Tarkong said.

'Make Saipan better known to Taiwan to attract tourists, investors'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam director general Vince W. H. Tsai urged the CNMI to be more aggressive in marketing Saipan or the CNMI in Taiwan to attract more Taiwanese tourists and investors to come to the islands.

"If only you can tap at least 1 percent of Taiwan's outbound tourists each year, that's already 80,000 tourists to Saipan," Tsai said in an interview yesterday.

Only a few hundreds from Taiwan visit the CNMI every year.

Tsai, the guest speaker at yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting, gave three main suggestions to improve CNMI-Taiwan relations: Making Saipan "better know to Taiwan" by sending delegations to Taiwan led by top government officials like the governor; tapping Taiwan experts on agriculture, fish farming and food processing; and taking the initiative to promote the islands, instead of waiting for opportunities to present themselves.

"Seek, not wait, for opportunity. Take the initiative. Reach out to Taiwan," he told Chamber members and guests at the meeting held at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

He said one way to stir up interest in the CNMI among Taiwanese is by setting up an official office in Taipei, the country's capital.

Tsai

Lack of direct flights

Tsai, whose office has jurisdiction over Guam, the CNMI and the Federated States of Micronesia, said the CNMI should also take advantage of the Guam-CNMI Joint Visa Waiver Program to entice more tourists from Taiwan.

He said Taiwan visitors have easy access to the CNMI because of Taiwan's inclusion in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, which has extended the length of time that tourists from Taiwan can stay in Guam and the CNMI from 15 days to 45 days.

However, the lack of direct flights between the two places is a big concern.

Tsai, who has been the Head of Mission in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam since August 2008, said he will be asking China Airlines of Taiwan to consider including Saipan in its routes.

He said currently, the airline has Guam-Taipei direct flight twice a week.

"If they combine or add Saipan to these flights, and offer a package deal where visitors from Taiwan can visit Guam and then CNMI, then that would be good," he said, adding that Taipei is only about 3.5 hours away from the Marianas.

Tsai also encouraged top CNMI government officials and business groups like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to send delegations to Taiwan to explore partnerships in tourism. He said the CNMI could also send outstanding performers to Taiwan to showcase the CNMI culture and heritage.

"In promoting the CNMI, you should also say what's the difference between the CNMI and Guam, or the CNMI and Bali. But one of those is high prices in the CNMI, compared to other Asian resort destinations. If you can make the prices lower, the better," he said.

Tsai also showed a video presentation on the beauty of Taiwan, it culture, economy, and history. He also touched on the relationship between Taiwan and China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province.

"We're working on economic cooperation. But there are still more than 1,000 missiles [in China] aimed at Taiwan. If you could help us to have those dismantled, please do so," he said.

Taiwan is also seeking support from around the world in its efforts to gain admission to the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as an observer, he added.

Ex-convict admits repeated 'ice' use

The U.S. Probation Office has sought the revocation of the supervised release of an ex-convict who allegedly admitted using methamphetamine or "ice" several times, saying he could no longer control his behavior.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William H. Alsup summoned Darrell M. Quitugua to appear in court today, Thursday, to explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

On Oct. 29, 2004, the federal court sentenced Quitugua to 70 months in prison and three years of supervised release for two counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. On Sept. 29, 2008, the court modified the conditions to require Quitugua to submit to drug tests.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson stated in her report that on Dec. 31, 2008, Quitugua's release was revoked for six months due to multiple admissions of drug use.

Quitugua was then released on June 30, 2009, and began serving his 30-month supervised release.

Since his release, Brunson said, Quitugua's conditions have been modified several times due to continued drug use.

On April 10, 2010 Quitugua reported to the Marianas Counseling Services for urinalysis and tested presumptive positive for meth use. Brunson said Quitugua admitted that he smoked "ice" two days earlier.

Brunson said subsequent testings on April 14 and 17, 2010, found Quitugua positive for "ice" use and he admitted smoking meth between April 11 and 13 and on April 16, 2010.

Brunson said that on April 19, Quitugua told her office that he cannot control his behavior any longer and that he needs a structured recovery program to straighten out his life. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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BOE opposes lowering compulsory age for public education

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education and the Public School System are strongly opposed to a bill that would lower the compulsory age for public education to 2 years old.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate, board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan expressed concern about the proposal's impact in terms of facilities and personnel costs, infringement on parental rights for such a young age group, and the additional cost of children who do not qualify for Head Start.

"This bill imposes severe financial burdens on the PSS," the two officials said, adding that in order to implement mandatory preschool and comply with the stringent Head Start program requirements, PSS would be required to build more classrooms and hire more personnel to meet the mandatory ratio of teacher-student ratio of 1:10.

The board adopted the joint statement at its last meeting.

Senate Bill 17-15, offered by Sen. Jude Hofschneider, seeks to mandate attendance for early childhood education and expand the age range for early childhood and adult education.

Saipan Tribune learned that the proposal will require PSS to hire 120 more new teachers and build 120 classrooms to accommodate the 3-4 year old population of about 1,900 children.

They said the current cost to build a new classroom is $150,000 while the annual cost for a teacher is $35,000 on average, including benefits.

"At a time when public education is constantly threatened with budget cuts, the additional burden will only exacerbate the current situation of our schools. PSS is already underfunded for providing education to those from ages 6 to 16," the two education officials said.

At present, PSS does not have enough classrooms, teachers, nor funding for all its kindergarten students and agreeing to the legislation would mean additional needs for PSS to accommodate preschoolers.

The board recently approved expanding its kindergarten program from half-day to full-day sessions, in consideration of the increasing number of students on its "wait list" every year. However, due to lack of facilities and teachers, only some schools on Tinian and Rota maybe able to implement this right away due to their smaller population.

Blanco-Maratita and Sablan said the estimated costs to implement a full-day program would incur an initial cost of $5.6 million and would increase annual expenditures by $2.3 million every year.

"If we were to add to that the cost of a mandatory preschool, those projected costs would more than double," they said, adding that although they laud the proposal's intent, PSS and BOE cannot support the idea.

PSS received over $34 million for personnel and operations from the local government this fiscal year. It has nearly 11,000 students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Jury trial begins in human smuggling case

The jury trial in federal court began yesterday in the case against four of five Chinese nationals who allegedly tried to sneak into Guam by boarding two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks on Rota.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William H. Alsup completed the jury selection on Tuesday and continued the trial yesterday.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday at noon, assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler was still questioning prosecution witness Isra D. Harahap, a special agent with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Harahap told the court how the investigation started, how they intercepted the two boats, and what evidence they recovered from the boats and the defendants.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley assisted Schuler in the trial.

Defense lawyers Michael Dotts, G. Anthony Long, Bruce Berline, and Mark Hanson are representing Shixu Huang, Li-hua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang.

The trial will continue today.

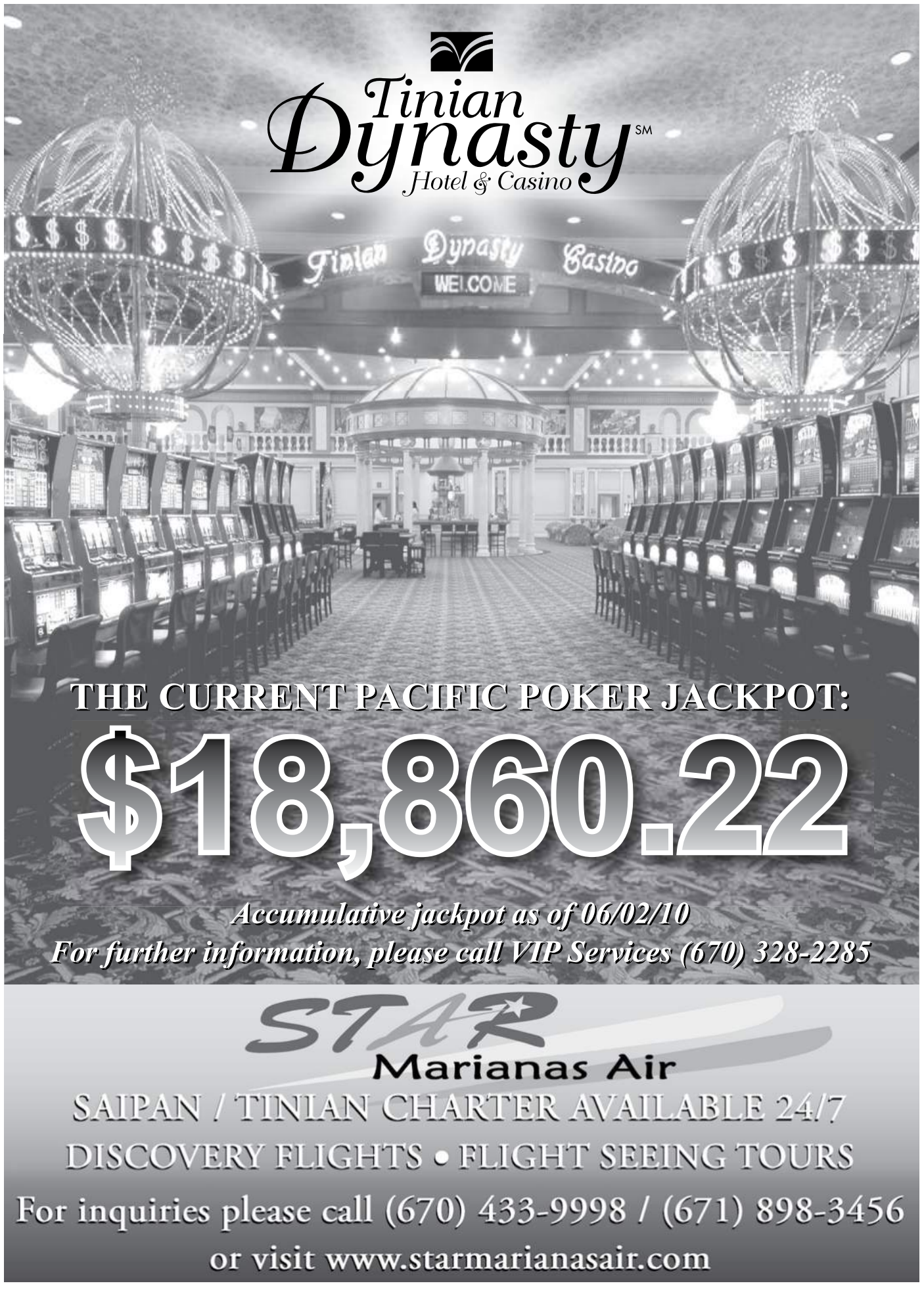
The fifth defendant, Jingfan Zhang, has already entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

The original indictment had charged the defendants with three counts each for conspiracy (defraud and offense theories), eluding examination and inspection, and attempted improper entry. The U.S. government later dismissed all charges except for the conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Harahap stated in his report that on Dec. 9, 2009, he obtained information from a concerned Saipan resident about human smuggling from Rota to Guam.

Harahap said that, on Jan. 30, 2010, at 4am, the five defendants boarded two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks, but law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats.

Schuler said the defendants came up with the plan to fly from Saipan to Rota and then travel by boat from Rota to Guam in order to sneak into Guam. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW DESKTOP COMPUTER, ONE (1) 55" HDTV MONITOR AND ONE (1) PORTABLE COMPUTER CART** to the following airports:

- Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI
- Amata Kabua International Airport, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Chuuk International Airport, Chuuk, FSM
- Kosrae International Airport, Kosrae. FSM
- Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei, FSM
- Yap International Airport, Yap, FSM
- Babelthuap Koror International Airport, Republic of Palau

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Desktop Computer, One (1) 55" HDTV Monitor and One (1) Portable Computer Cart".*** The proposal must be submitted on or before **4:30 p.m., Monday, JUNE 14, 2010,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The procurement consists of the procurement and delivery of the above-subject equipment to each respective island's Airport Authority, all in accordance with the specifications. The specifications for the computers, the monitors and the carts can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the arrival building at the Saipan International Airport. The specifications for the computer are mandated by the Federal Aviation Adminsitration so there will be absolutely no substitution of components for desktop computer system.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes and shipping and handling costs that will be charged to the company awarded the procurement, including excise tax. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

The contract period for delivery of all equipment to each respective island shall be **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from issuance of purchase order.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than June 7, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

June 1, 2010
Date

Five college-bound seniors awarded Chamber scholarships

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce awarded five high school students educational scholarships yesterday at their general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Five seniors from Marianas High School, Calvary Christian Academy, and Grace Christian Academy received $2,000 scholarships each.

Celina Chow, a student at MHS, will attend the University of Foreign Affairs in Beijing. She later told *Saipan Tribune* she was thrilled to receive the scholarship and thanked the Chamber in her acceptance speech with a heartfelt *si yu'us ma'ase*.

Rica Jin Kim, another MHS student, shared her fellow Dolphin's excitement saying, "I was so surprised when I won, I didn't think I was going to get it." She plans to attend the University of Phoenix and eventually return to Saipan to establish her own business.

Jim Cedrick Libut, also known as CJ, graduated from Grace Christian Academy and is currently unsure of what he wants to study, but will attend the University of Connecticut.

Adeleyah Mojica, another graduating senior from MHS, said she is ecstatic and honored to receive the scholarship. 'The youth of today are the workforce of tomorrow and I am grateful for this opportunity." She plans to study international relations. For her long-term plans, she intends to join a non-government organization to join the fight for human rights.

The final recipient of the Chamber scholarship, Jeremiah Rey Perez, was unable to make it to the award ceremony because he was representing the CNMI in the National MathCourt Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. His family received his check on his behalf saying that "he wanted to be here, but he also wanted to represent the CNMI." Perez plans to attend Bob Jones University to study engineering.

The Scholarship Committee included individuals from the SCC's board of directors. The committee chose five from over 24 applicants and spent roughly four days selecting the finalists.

From left, a representative of Jeremiah Rey Perez, Jim Cedrick Libut, Celina Chow, Rica Jin Kim, and Adeleyah Mojica pose with Saipan Chamber of Commerce education committee members Jim Arenovski, Kanae Quinn, and Janice Tenorio after being presented their scholarship checks in yesterday's general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alfred Kevin C. Acosta and to the Mount Carmel School Class of 2010 on your graduation day on May 29, 2010! We are very proud of you, keep up the good work, son, and we love you so much! Greetings come from your loving family: Papa, Mama, and Ydylle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 17th birthday to Chad Hamilton Calvo, who is celebrating his special day today, June 3, 2010! Greetings come from your family.

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

Vicente Aldan found in civil contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finding his explanation for the missing gun "an incredible story," Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman found Vicente T. Aldan in civil contempt yesterday and remanded him to prison.

Wiseman said there is clear and convincing evidence that Aldan is in contempt of his orders for failing to turn over the weapon used in the commission of a crime he pleaded guilty to on Nov. 3, 2009.

The judge said Aldan had the opportunity to comply with the court's order, by either turning over the gun or providing information as to the whereabouts of the weapon. "Instead, [Aldan] provided the court with an incredible story that consisted of a conspiracy between Tinian police officers to hide [his] 'loaded handgun' from him," Wiseman said.

Wiseman said Aldan failed to give any corroborating evidence. "Alternatively, we have sworn testimony from eight police officers who contradict his claim about the gun," the judge said.

Wiseman remanded Aldan to the custody of the Department of Corrections. He gave Aldan the opportunity to purge himself at any point in time by turning over the gun or by providing the court with incredible information as to its whereabouts.

Wiseman said Aldan's original sentence and release date are hereby postponed by the length of his imprisonment for civil contempt.

The judge said Aldan shall not be entitled to any weekend furloughs, work releases, or any other form of temporary release from DOC, except for any necessary medical treatment. Aldan used to have furloughs when his wife, Dolores, was the then DOC commissioner.

Aldan, 52, had pleaded guilty to assaulting his former wife in July 2009 on Tinian. On Nov. 4, 2009, Wiseman accepted the plea agreement and sentenced him to six months in prison without parole. Aldan was also ordered to surrender the gun he used in assaulting his ex-wife.

Aldan failed to surrender the gun and a contempt hearing was held on May 7, 2010 to May 13, 2010.

At the hearing, Aldan testified that when he was being escorted from the police station to the dock on Tinian to be transported to Saipan, he overheard two police officers say that they had recovered a loaded gun.

Eight Tinian officers testified, however, that the gun had never been recovered. The escorting officers testified that they had never spoken to each other about the gun being loaded or recovered.

Police recovered, however, two .22 long rifles and three pellet guns, but not the handgun.

In his order issued yesterday, Wiseman said Aldan's testimony is inconsistent. On one hand, Aldan claims that he could not comply with the court's order since the gun was stolen or destroyed; on the other hand, he claims that Tinian DPS was in possession of his weapon.

The judge noted that at the change of plea hearing on Nov. 3, 2009, Aldan represented to the court that he was still in possession of the gun.

Wiseman said he does not find Aldan's testimony credible and there was no clear and convincing evidence why Aldan has failed to turn over the weapon.

Manglona: Senate open to compromise on austerity bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday the Senate is willing to reach a compromise with the House of Representatives over a controversial austerity bill to help reduce spending, not only for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 but also for FY 2011.

The House rejected the Senate's version of a House austerity bill that imposes a 10-hour government work cut every pay period. The Senate removed the work hour cuts and instead proposed increases in taxes and fees to address the government's declining resources.

The CNMI's $148 million budget has been revised to $137 million in FY 2010. Projected revenue is further down to $132 million in FY 2011.

Manglona, who just came back from the mainland, said he welcomes the House's call for the formation of a conference committee.

"I am glad they are willing to form a conference committee, and realize the need to work together on the budget. I will also comply by appointing members of the Senate to the committee. We are open to a compromise," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of the original austerity bill or House Bill 17-45, earlier said the House is willing to reach a "compromise" with the Senate and expressed confidence this will be achieved.

Before reaching the Senate, HB 17-45 went through six revisions. The Senate also passed a substitute bill.

Manglona said yesterday he will be appointing four senators to the conference committee: Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota); Sen. Pete P. Reyes, who is the longest serving Saipan senator; Sen. Joe Ayuyu (Ind-Rota); and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

He said he will make the formal appointments today.

In the House, the appointed members of the conference committee are Basa, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

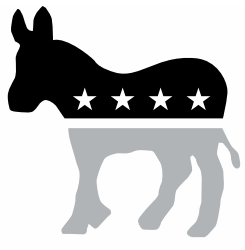
'Hatoyama resignation won't impact Guam buildup'

HAGATNA, Guam—Acting Guam Gov. Mike Cruz assured yesterday that the resignation of Japan Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama will have no impact on the relocation plan for the U.S. Marines in Okinawa.

"[Hatoyama's] resignation is a significant change within the Japanese government. However, the international accord which has necessitated the relocation of U.S. Marines to Guam is still in effect and the Guam buildup is still subject to that mandate.

"Recent North Korean aggression has demonstrated the vital importance of the American-Japanese alliance to this region of the world. Without it, the Asian-Pacific rim will be left unguarded and unsafe," Cruz said.

The military plans to move 8,600 Marines, and 9,000 of their dependents, to Guam from Okinawa, Japan, to reduce the U.S. military's large footprint on densely populated Okinawa.



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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 3, 1999

Govt to look into RP Consulate complaints

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday assured officials of the Philippine Consulate in the CNMI that he would look into their complaints regarding difficulties in gaining access to Filipinos detained in the Division of Corrections. The issue was brought to the attention of the governor during the signing of the CNMI-RP Friendship Week the other day. A surprised Tenorio said he would discuss the problem with Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram to address the concerns raised by the consular office. According to Araceli Maraya, since the prison takeover DOC has imposed a new policy, which requires seven days waiting period before requests to see inmates would be granted.

Senators bicker over $24M CIP projects

At least four senators blocked attempts yesterday to overhaul the CIP bill that will appropriate more than $24 million in both federal and local funds in fear it would risk yet another veto from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and delay spending of the construction grants. The Senate instead had to settle on a minor amendment to House Bill 11-408, interchanging the amount set aside for two projects on Rota, while junking proposal from Rota delegation to give expenditure and reprogramming authorities to local mayors. Although the measure passed with a 9-0 vote after a hour-long debate, senators from Rota expressed dismay that the amendment did not win support of their colleagues from Saipan and Tinian.

June 3, 2002

Babauta marks friendship week with Filipinos

In the presence of ranking consular officials and representatives of the different Filipino organizations in the Commonwealth, Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed Friday a proclamation declaring June 8 to 16 as the CNMI-Philippines Friendship Week. This comes amidst preparations now underway within the Filipino community to mark their country's Independence Day on June 12. The significance of Friday's occasion was marked with the finery worn by those present during the proclamation signing, with the men clad in the traditional barong Tagalog and the women in classic Filipiniana.

Manglona to OPA: Audit the entire Senate

Senate President Paul A. Manglona has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a full audit on the entire Senate, in the wake of news reports about alleged violations of the government Ethics Act by some senators. In a letter to Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan dated May 31, Manglona said he wants the investigation and audit conducted to put these allegations to rest once and for all. This comes soon after Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero asked the OPA to investigate Manglona's office account funds, in connection with the alleged full-time employment of Senate Vice President Jose M. Dela Cruz's daughter, who is also a full-time student at the University of Guam. It was later found out that Dela Cruz's daughter is actually employed under Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig's office and not under Manglona.

June 3, 2003

CSC mulls changes to bylaws, regs

The Civil Service Commission will be creating a special committee within the commission to review and submit changes to the by-laws and regulations governing the body, in a move intended to correct some deficiencies and lay down specific ground rules for the body. The creation of the committee was supposed to take place in a scheduled meeting Wednesday last week but this was postponed to this coming Wednesday, June 4, at 9am. CSC's legal counsel John McCool said the entire by-laws will undergo close scrutiny. "They [by-laws and regulations] haven't been reviewed since 1996 and the original ones were very simple and lacked guidelines for many of the board's responsibilities," he said.

Eucon awaits lifting of SARS entry suspension

Eucon International College is also awaiting the CNMI government's decision to lift the suspension of issuance of entry permits to Chinese nationals amid the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. "We have lots of students waiting to come in. We are just waiting for the government to lift the SARS suspension," Eucon president Christian Wei said. He said some 100 students from mainland China are expected to enter Eucon College this fall, mainly for English courses. "We've got students from different cities," he said.

Kilili meets Rota residents in town hall meeting set today

Residents on Rota will have another opportunity to meet with their congressman, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in a "town hall" style gathering scheduled for today, June 3, 2010.

Sablan

At the town hall meeting, Sablan will be taking questions about issues important to all CNMI residents, and asking for input on legislation currently before Congress. This will be the second time Sablan will be hosting a town hall meeting on Rota; the first such gathering were held last year in August.

"The discussion from last year's town hall meetings in Rota—as well as [on] Saipan and Tinian—were extremely productive," said Sablan. "The feedback I received from the meetings helped provide a deeper insight into what the residents of those islands were concerned about and what kind of changes they would like to see happen."

The town hall meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm at the Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria. All community members are invited to attend.

"I already hear by phone and e-mail from many people in the Marianas about their concerns and opinions regarding national policy and the events they hear or read about in the media," Sablan said. "But these town halls will give me a chance to see people face to face, and, I hope, hear from even more of the people I am representing in Congress.

"I want to talk with everyone directly about their concerns and what I can do to represent them well in Washington," Sablan added.

Some of the issues expected to be discussed are the recently-enacted health care reform law, expanding educational opportunities for the people of the CNMI, the federalized immigration system, energy alternatives for the islands, environmental protection, and the services Sablan's office can provide directly to constituents.

"I invite everyone to attend and participate in what I hope will be a very open and productive dialogue," said Sablan. ***(PR)***

Zoning hires Camacho to lead enforcement

After a long wait, the Zoning Office is now staffed with a new Enforcement Officer who will take charge of the overall enforcement activities of the zoning program.

Christopher Mendiola Camacho joins the current five staff to ensure that the program's intent

Camacho

is followed through accordingly and to assist the public in their understanding and compliance with the law's requirements.

A graduate of Sacramento State University and a former CPA employee, Camacho hopes to apply all the experience and knowledge he has learned to his new role.

"I am very excited to be a part of Zoning and to have the opportunity to assist in implementing the program and addressing its enforcement issues in accordance with the law," he said.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro expresses gratitude on behalf of the Zoning board for the addition of the enforcement staff. "Chris topped the six candidates for this position and I am confident that he will greatly help in bringing the program to its full potential. He will be leading the enforcement activities and guided closely by our regs and law."

She said the additional staff would help ensure consistency with the program's enforcement guidelines and activities. "The process of permitting to regulate is never effective without enforcement. Our new staff will oversee that issue," Ogumoro said. ***(PR)***

Woman charged in Feb. for bringing pesticide aboard plane in '08 arrested

Federal agents arrested Tuesday a Chinese woman who was indicted in February for allegedly bringing a pesticide aboard an airplane in 2008.

Yuqiong Zheng, 38, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday for the initial hearing.

District Court designated judge Robert C. Naraja imposed a $1,000 cash bail for Zheng's temporary release.

The U.S. government charged Zheng with reckless violation of the Federal Aviation Act and willful violation of the Hazardous Material Law.

According to the indictment filed by assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum, Zheng brought the pesticide buprofezin aboard an aircraft on Oct. 9, 2008.

McCallum said that Zheng's act violated the regulation and requirements prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation under the Federal Aviation Act.

The buprofezin was allegedly improperly labeled, packaged and conditioned for shipping. No other details were given in the indictment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC FORUM ON RETIREMENT ISSUES

The Retirement Fund Board of Trustees, together with the Administrator and Deputy Administrator, would be holding a Public Forum to address the issues affecting the Retirement Fund Program.

Date: **Tuesday, June 15, 2010**
Place: **Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**
Time: **1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Open Forum**
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Fund Presentation

All retirees and active members of the Retirement Fund are encouraged to attend this forum to gain better knowledge and understanding of the issues and the efforts being made by the Retirement Fund in protecting the Program.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-058

"A/C REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE FOR SINAPALO ELEMENTARY, ROTA JR., AND ROTA HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **A/C Replacement and Upgrade at Sinapalo Elementary, Rota Jr. High School and Rota High School on Rota**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 27, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $49.15.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 15, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at Rota High School Library on Rota. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 18, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-058, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, June 25, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 2:00 p.m. local time June 30, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m. local time on June 25, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or email to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and five copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 25, 2010 and must be received no later than July 6, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m., July 13, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Shot in the arm for medical integrity

© 2010 Seattle Times

The long, sordid and destructive tale of Andrew Wakefield continues. The discredited British physician and autism researcher has been banned from practicing medicine in Britain.

One can hardly overstate the heartache and turmoil his unsubstantiated rants against the childhood vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella have caused. His sloppy work and loose talk raised fears about a link between the vaccine and autism. Wakefield frightened legions of parents away from rudimentary protection against entirely preventable illnesses.

Wakefield fled his practice in Britain in 2004 and landed at an alternative-medicine research center in Texas. He was still under investigation back home, and the lengthy review ended in January. The General Medical Council announced its decision on Monday.

Wakefield thrived by exploitation of the raw emotions of parents with children diagnosed with autism, and by inflating the fears of millions more who were worried about what might happen.

Parents crave information on which to make informed decisions for their infants and toddlers as vaccination cycles begin. Wakefield's reckless behavior continues to haunt concerned families.

Science is not on the side of the doctor or those who mouth his theories.

Wakefield is most thoroughly repudiated by generations of healthy children and their families who have not suffered the pain, inconvenience and expense of 14 childhood diseases prevented by timely immunizations.

Hire education

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

Higher education in the United States operates on a quasi-capitalist model. Similar to businesses, the country's 4,100 colleges and universities, both private and public, are expected to compete and strategize for targeted students, talented faculty and staff, and financial awards. If they are unsuccessful, they will be less competitive, lose financial stability, may lose accreditation and possibly be forced to shut down.

There was once a small community college that struggled to move beyond mediocrity for decades. Like many of their counterparts, they competed with other institutions to attract students and remain solvent. After hiring a visionary president, and following a strategic plan, the college was eventually able to achieve national distinction and attract students from over 40 foreign countries.

North Carolina's Elon College not only made the transition to Elon University, but it was able to emerge as one of America's most desirable institutions and it has been ranked as the nation's top "School to Watch" by U.S. News & World Report. George Keller reveals the factors that helped Elon rise from ordinariness and poverty to distinction and financial stability in his book, *Transforming a College: The Story of a Little-Known College's Strategic Climb to National Distinction* (to see a complete review of the book, go to http://rikv.blogspot.com).

Of all the factors, the most important was the leadership of Fred Young. When he was hired to take the reins of Elon College during the spring of 1973, it was tuition dependent and had to rely on student enrollment. President Young recalls that "in those days fear was our great motivator."

He determined that Elon College was financially vulnerable with 90 percent of its revenues coming from student tuition. After careful analysis, Young made admissions and student life programs his top priorities. Admissions would bring more qualified students to the campus and improving student life would keep them coming back. Over the years, the leadership at Elon College took the following steps to advance the institution:

■ Young felt that a major handicap to attracting more students was the appearance of the campus. Additional property was acquired and an architectural firm was hired to create a master plan to transform the college's campus into a lovely place where students would want to stay and parents would want to visit.

■ A marketing task force was formed in the early 1980s, and the leaders decided to reposition the college to attract a different clientele. Instead of admitting relatively weak students, Elon targeted students with above average SAT scores from middle-class families. Once Elon decided on its new student market, its priority of initiatives became clearer.

■ President Young was convinced that if the college was to become one of the best institutions of its kind it had to develop a distinctive academic and extracurricular program and have exceptional quality in everything Elon did. "Quality everywhere" was the mantra of Young and he constantly pursued excellence in every aspect of Elon's operations. "Study squads" were sent to examine the best practices of top-notch institutions and the results were used as benchmarks in Elon's pursuit of excellence.

■ Strategic planning throughout President Young's administration became an indispensable guide for setting priorities and making decisions. The 1994 strategic plan called the Elon Vision was a highly useful blueprint, and it was largely fulfilled by 1998. When President Leo Lambert took over in 1998, he initiated three different plans to increase academic excellence, provide new facilities to boost academic life, and gather the resources to make the other two goals possible.

Through strong, committed leadership, strategic planning, and dedicated teamwork, Elon has been able to realize its vision. This has resulted in low turnover rates of faculty and staff, high employment after graduation with about 43 percent of the students receiving two or three job offers, and strong financial stability for the university.

As I was reading about Elon College's transition from a struggling college to a competitive institution and eventually a university that has garnered praise and distinction, I couldn't help but think about what the future holds for NMC. Northern Marianas College is on the verge of choosing a new leader who will determine the direction and stability of not only the college, but the entire CNMI. NMC is responsible for preparing future business and government leaders, but it could also play a critical role to determine the financial stability of the islands.

The purpose of this article was to glean key points that Northern Marianas College can reflect on as it braces itself for new leadership. The scrappy community college has gone through a lot and achieved much in the past three decades, and there is tremendous untapped potential waiting to be realized as it continues its transformation process.

The key that eventually unlocked Elon College's success was committed, visionary leadership. It will also be the critical linchpin that allows Northern Marianas College to complete its transformation into the premier college of choice among local traditional and non-traditional students, as well as Asian students seeking to develop their English language skills and improve their acceptance to universities in the United States. You could say that the key to success in higher education at NMC lies in who they hire.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's defense footprint in Asia

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivered at the "America's Future in Asia: $20-Billion US-Marianas Buildup Conference" on May 25, 2010, in San Diego, California.

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno Repeki Fitial is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Joel Ayala and Gov. Schwarzenegger for hosting us in the great state of California. I would like to recognize Gov. Felix Camacho, the Guam U.S. Delegate, Madeleine Bordallo, my dear friend OIA Director Nik Pula, Gen. David Bice, Captain Peter Lynch, as well as all of our other esteemed colleagues. It is wonderful to see so many old friends and new faces at this very important conference. When I looked at today's agenda and recognized that I was speaking after my brother, Gov. Camacho, I was relieved. The reason I was relieved is that I knew I only had to say a few words. My remarks were going to be, "Whatever he just said…I am now saying."

While this thought may bring about some laughter, it emphasizes the harmonious and binding relationship that exists between the island of Guåhan and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our communities, our people, our culture, and our values stand as a testament to the bond that is separated only by the change in tides of the ocean. What is good for the island of Guåhan is good for the CNMI. What is harmful to one is also harmful to the other. These may be simple statements; however, it sums up many of the dynamics that our islands must contend with as part of the unprecedented military relocation into the Marianas.

While there is much anticipation and excitement about the opportunities that exist as part of the Marianas military relocation, there is also uncertainty and anxiety. While governor Camacho and I must contend with the polar dynamics of balancing economic growth with preserving the culture, environment, and values that our islands have come to treasure, we do so in the spirit of partnership. We must be able to balance the needs of our nation with the needs of our islands. We must work with our federal colleagues while being the voice of local leadership. The tremendous undertaking of relocating the U.S. military is mind-numbing at best, but to do so across a vast ocean, in an expedited time frame makes this undertaking seem almost impossible.

While we all understand the opportunities and challenges ahead of us, in order to be successful in this undertaking it is imperative that we develop the partnerships required to realize such success. Our nation, our islands, our men and women in service are all dependent on the partnerships that we forge today and in the months and years ahead. The Marianas military relocation is on a global stage. We are no longer just islands in the Pacific, we are America's defense footprint in Asia.

While the CNMI and Guåhan serve as a strategic military asset to the U.S., it also serves as a dynamic place to do business. Our islands are literally America's doorstep to Asia. With close proximity to expansive Asian markets, the CNMI and Guåhan provide the catalyst for a domestic company to transform into an international firm. With the protection of U.S. law, access to favorable tax conditions, a steady and comfortable climate, a business friendly government, and a pristine natural environment, the Mariana Islands are an ideal place to realize sustainable business growth in a time of global recession. While we encourage firms to consider our islands for a place to conduct business, we value those firms that place an emphasis on quality, innovation, and integrity. Our islands produce some of the best and brightest—and we aim to continue that legacy with ensuring that we attract only the best business partners.

I am encouraged by those in attendance here today. It demonstrates the commitment of our existing partners and serves as a forum to develop new and lasting relationships. I am certain that the forthcoming discussions will yield positive results and I am hopeful that the success of this event will equate to the success of the Marianas.

Ongoing oil spill destroys the Myth of Competence

By LEONARD PITTS JR.
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Now they're saying August. August.

After a month and a half of "top kill" and "junk shot," of chemical dispersants and high-tech domes, of skimmers and controlled burns, this is what we have to show for it. We are now told it may take another "two months" to stop oil from spewing into Gulf Coast waters. And that's assuming no hurricane sweeps into the Gulf and forces temporary suspension of the effort to dig two relief wells.

The immediate consequences of the April 20th oil rig explosion that started all this have long been manifest. Eleven lives were lost. Oil spilled into our seas, wreaked havoc upon the various forms of fish, fowl and crustaceans for whom the ocean is home or feeding ground. The disaster also struck at the economic lifeblood of a region still trying to find its footing after being ransacked by Hurricane Katrina.

Weeks later, one other consequence becomes jarringly apparent: the Myth of Competence has died.

Meaning the belief that people who engage in high-risk activities—in this case, the ones who drill for oil 5,000 feet under the sea—know what they're doing, that they have every contingency covered, that even their backup plans have backup plans. Surely this is what Sarah Palin was thinking when she chirped, "Drill, baby, drill!" Surely this is what President Barack Obama relied upon when he recently proposed to open new waters to oil exploration.

Anticipating protests from environmentalists, he even promised, that "we'll employ new technologies that reduce the impact of oil exploration. We'll protect areas that are vital to tourism, the environment, and our national security."

Three weeks later, the oil rig exploded. So far, that protection he promised has been nonexistent. That faith in new technologies he mentioned has proved misplaced. And "Drill, baby, drill!" has come to seem tinnier and more childish than ever—energy policy as schoolyard chant.

We have been disabused of the Myth of Competence, shorn of the belief that the people in charge are capable of handling any eventuality.

Instead, we have seen oil company executives passing the blame around like a hot potato. We have seen strategy after strategy announced in great hope, abandoned in grim resignation. We have seen days turn to weeks and weeks to months and now, apparently, months will turn to seasons. And still the oil flows.

Perhaps most damning of all, we have seen reports that the Minerals Management Service, the unit of the Interior Department whose job it is to police the oil companies, performed its duties with a shoddiness and inattention bordering on the criminal. We're talking about allegations that MMS personnel accepted expensive gifts and entered sexual relationships with representatives of companies they were supposed to be regulating. And allowed those officials to fill out their own inspection forms. And ignored warnings from the government's scientists about possible environmental impacts of opening certain areas to drilling.

Why not, after all? What's the worst that could happen?

Nothing, unless you count up to 800,000 gallons of oil a day spilling into the sea.

The other day on CNN, they had one of those viewer participation segments where they asked people for their ideas of how to stem the leak. One individual suggested parking a Navy sub atop the well. I remember thinking it a silly idea, impractical for any number of reasons. Then you look at BP flailing around and you have to reconsider. How is that idea any less likely than the things the "experts" have tried without success?

If you hear a certain bitterness in my voice, well, I confess. I look at that ubiquitous video feed of oil gushing into Gulf waters and realize I took for granted that these people knew what they were doing and that they were being regulated by those who had the nation's best interests at heart.

Obviously, I made a mistake.

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald, Readers may write to him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

Shaming North Korea

By PAUL B. STARES
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The lack of good options to punish North Korea for the unprovoked sinking of a South Korean warship that cost the lives of 46 sailors is causing much hand-wringing. Military retaliation risks precipitating another Korean war, while additional economic sanctions and U.N. condemnations will only work if China agrees to giving them real teeth, which it won't. What is there then to deter North Korea from doing something similar again?

North Korea's apparent impunity is very likely what its leader, Kim Jong Il, calculated when he authorized the attack. There is, however, another—so far unexploited—pressure point on North Korea that Kim probably didn't consider: its upcoming participation in the World Cup soccer championship.

Soccer is North Korea's No. 1 sport, and after qualifying for the World Cup for the first time in 44 years, there is much anticipation—to say nothing of national pride—that it is competing with the very best teams in the world. International soccer is one of the few activities of the outside world—perhaps the only one—that North Koreans are allowed to follow.

Ejecting North Korea from the tournament does not look promising. FIFA, the soccer world's governing body, believes strongly that politics and sport should not be mixed, though it did once ban South Africa during the apartheid era.

Cutting off TV coverage to the North is also likely to be futile. Although a South Korean company owns the broadcast rights to both Koreas, China's state-run television probably would fill the breach. Such action also would likely play into Kim's hands by reinforcing his propaganda that the world, and especially South Korea, is out to get the North.

A different, more subtle strategy is to let North Korea watch the World Cup, and to see not only their beloved national team but also the condemnation of the world. As the largest sporting event on the planet with an estimated "cumulative" TV viewership of 35 billion to 40 billion—yes, billion—people, the World Cup offers an unparalleled stage for shaming and further isolating North Korea.

This could take various forms. Although FIFA prohibits players from using their "compulsory equipment" for political or religious statements, discretionary items are not covered. Thus teams or individual players could wear black armbands or wristbands, perhaps emblazoned with the number 46, to signify solidarity with the bereaved.

The Iranian soccer squad did something similar when some of its players wore green wristbands in a game to show their support for the opposition movement after the fraudulent 2009 national elections. FIFA, interestingly, did nothing to sanction the team and actually sent a formal note of inquiry to the Iranian authorities after ominous reports surfaced that the players wearing the wristbands had been "retired."

Such public protestations needn't be confined to the games that North Korea plays—though, coincidentally, they are sure to be high-profile events. North Korea happens to be competing in the so-called Group of Death against Brazil (the No. 1 team in the world), Portugal (its nemesis in one of the most famous World Cup games) and Ivory Coast (arguably the best team in Africa). This alone will garner hundreds of millions of viewers around the world. Other teams in other groups, not least those from South Korea, the United States and Japan—to say nothing of spectators with placards—could also make known their displeasure.

The meaning of these protests may initially be lost on those watching in North Korea, but word could eventually spread, particularly among the elite. The millions of viewers in China may also wonder why their government is so supportive of a regime that the rest of the world vilifies. The ultimate effect of a global shaming of North Korea is unpredictable, but similar campaigns have proved effective. Certainly, it would make Kim Jong Il and others like him think twice before contemplating such a heinous act again.

Paul B. Stares is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and director of its Center for Preventive Action. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Letter to the Editor

Respected and honored

It is self-evident and self-explanatory that all conditions in life *must* be to the greatest satisfaction for all. The indigenous legal and political rights, fundamental affairs, concerns, benefits, and businesses *must* receive top priority, *not* inferiority. To limit and strangle this freedom is a total violation of law, justice, agreement, and morality (the standards of right and wrong). The current suppression of the indigenous people's voices is absolutely unfavorable, intolerable, and painful. Therefore, our people's sensations and interests *must* be solicited. We, the indigenous people, like any other people, *must* be respected and honored at all times.

Leon Hoashi Lizama
Fina Sisu, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

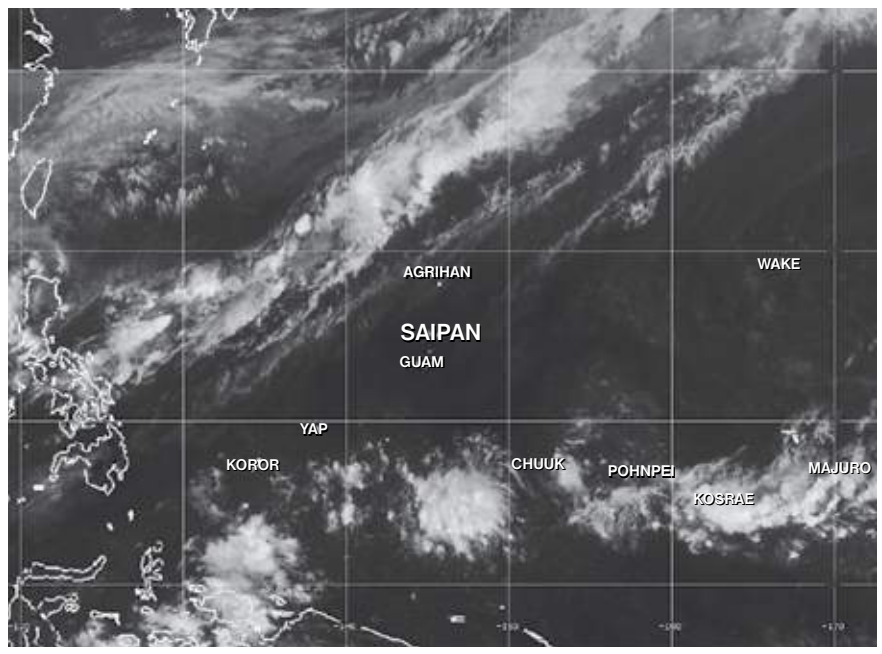
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲85	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼74
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼73
London	Sunny	▲71	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼85
Melbourne	Sunny	▲65	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼67
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲78	▼62
Paris	Sunny	▲76	▼54
Pusan	Sunny	▲72	▼60
Rome	Showers	▲74	▼57
Salem	Rain	▲62	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼60
Tokyo	Sunny	▲74	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 22N137E to beyond 19N at 130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and within 150 miles of the frontal boundary. Trade wind convergence is generating scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 100 miles of 5N147E and isolated showers across eastern Micronesia within 120 miles of a line from 6N155E to 4N165E to 6N175E to 5N180. A strong surface ridge is producing clear skies over the Marianas.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:35 PM	10:51 AM
Friday		11:38 AM
Saturday	12:10 AM	12:24 PM
Sunday	12:44 AM	1:10 PM
Monday	1:20 AM	1:58 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				**GUAM-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN	C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**			
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

2010 National Library Week

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ed Camacho of Island Equipment and Matua Riders smile as they are recognized for generously maintaining and cleaning the grounds of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library as their civic contribution. JKPL thanks Island Equipment for donating its heavy equipment to remove years of debris pile next to JKPL's parking lot and in front of the Public Defender's Office, the water blaster to clean JKPL's entrance and courtyard, and the electrical trimmer to tidy the plants that surround the courtyard.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vicky I. Benavente of Pacific Islands Club and grandson are flanked by CNMI Library Council Chairman Joe Limes, Treasurer Herminia M. Fusco, and Secretary Paz C. Younis, as PIC is recognized as a major donor of recently purchased books worth $5,000.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Environmental Quality's Lisa Eller educates students about best environmental practices during the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ChaCha Jr. High School librarian Aide Natalie Kaneshi joins her students from ChaCha Jr. High Book Lovers Club sell their scholastic collections of books to the hundreds of patrons who attended the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coral Reef Management Office educates patrons about coastal management practices at their tent during the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Department of Public Health's Diabetes Prevention and Control Program donates a few sets of the nationally acclaimed Eagle Books Series to Motheread/Fatheread Program and the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, both lifetime partners in promoting literacy in the island community. From left are Viola S. DLG, Motheread/Fatheread coordinator; Janet U. Maratita, DPCP Manager; John "Bolis" Gonzales, JKPL executive director; and Bryan Manabat, Motheread/Fatheread Assistant at the Circulation Center of the JKPL in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Kiyu Public Library volunteer Tani Masga attends to kids at the games booth during the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sen. Ralph Torres, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, and Sen. Jovita Taimanao get their blood pressures and glucose levels checked by DPH DPCP's Trina Sablan and Ling Rabauliman at the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Youth Services and CNMI Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Violence promote public awareness to patrons at their tent during the National Library Week 2010 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, One Call Maintenance Inc., Matua Riders president Vince B. Lizama, Microl's Glen Perez, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Chong's Corporation Joana Pai, Angil Design's Ron Smith, Joeten Enterprises' Darlene P. Macaranas, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez are all smiles after being acknowledged for their assistance to the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

Business

BP will likely survive spill, but worth much less

NEW YORK (AP)—BP is probably sturdy enough to survive the worst oil spill in U.S. history. But investors are shaving billions of dollars off its value with every day that crude gushes into the Gulf of Mexico.

On Tuesday alone, the first trading day since BP's latest attempt at a fix failed, and the day the government announced it had opened a criminal probe into the disaster, its stock took a hit of 15 percent.

■■■

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP's stock plummeted and took much of the market down with it Tuesday as the federal government announced criminal and civil investigations into the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

BP engineers, meanwhile, tried to recover from a failed attempt to stop the gusher with an effort that will initially make the leak worse.

Attorney General Eric Holder, who was visiting the Gulf to survey the fragile coastline and meet with state and federal prosecutors, would not say who might be targeted in the probes into the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

"We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill. If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be extremely forceful in our response," Holder said in New Orleans.

■■■

The British oil giant is worth $75 billion less on the open market than it was when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded six weeks ago. Other companies involved in the spill—Transocean, Halliburton and Cameron—have all lost at least 30 percent in value.

And as oil seeps unchecked into the Gulf, nearby states, businesses, environmental regulators and injured workers and cleanup crews are eyeing damages that could total billions more.

"This will be the mother of all liability claims," said Fred Kuffler, a Philadelphia maritime lawyer who has handled oil-spill lawsuits.

The stakes were raised Tuesday as Attorney General Eric Holder said federal authorities had opened criminal and civil investigations into the spill. He did not specify which companies or individuals might be targets.

BP says it has spent $1 billion so far on fighting and cleaning the spill. Its liabilities and potential fines are growing by the day, and it could be August before the company gets control of the situation by completing two relief wells.

The company has already agreed to pick up the government's cleanup tab and any "legitimate" damage claims. BP said Tuesday it has paid out about $40 million to cover about half of the 30,000 claims it has received.

At least 130 lawsuits have been filed seeking damages for business lost from the spill. Most are from seafood processing plants, charter boat captains, hotels, restaurants and others who make their living from the sea or from coastal tourism.

Based on federal law, BP and partners Anadarko Petroleum and Mitsui & Co. also face a minimum fine of $1,000 per barrel of oil spilled, said Eric Schaeffer, who led the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement office from 1997 to 2002. Schaeffer is now the director of the Environmental Integrity Project.

The government estimates 20 million to 43 million gallons of crude have gushed into the Gulf over the past six weeks. If the spill were contained today, the fines would add up to between $480 million and $1 billion.

Already, the Gulf disaster has eclipsed the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, which, after two decades of lawsuits, cost Exxon Mobil $4.5 billion. That's roughly $654 per gallon in today's dollars, according to Blake Fernandez, an analyst with Howard Weil, an energy investment firm with headquarters in New Orleans.

Experts are increasingly looking at the Valdez disaster as a conservative model because the Gulf Coast is home to far more people and businesses than Alaska, where the Valdez ran aground.

In addition to cleanup costs, the government will probably also ask BP to pay for restoring an oil-soaked coastline—including repairs to sensitive marshlands, oyster beds and fisheries, Kuffler said.

AP

Memorial crosses symbolizing what is lost due to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion and oil spill stand in the front yard of a house in Grand Isle, La., Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Economy benefiting from building and manufacturing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economic recovery is gaining strength from the biggest rise in construction spending in nearly a decade and the 10th straight month of expansion for manufacturers.

The two positive reports eased some fears that the debt crisis in Europe might be starting to stunt the U.S. economic rebound.

"The recovery is still on track," said Brian Bethune, a senior economist at IHS Global Insight. While Europe's troubles will put a drag on profits at U.S. companies that do business overseas, Bethune said, "it's not going to be a show-stopper."

The burst in April construction spending reported Tuesday by the Commerce Department sent a promising signal for an industry that was among the hardest hit during the recession. The 2.7 percent increase was spread across all major sectors. But temporary government incentives fueled gains in two of three major categories. The economy will eventually have to manage with less government support.

In a separate report, the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its manufacturing index dipped only slightly in May from a nearly six-year high in April. But the 59.7 reading for May was well above the 50 level that indicates expansion. Export orders rose despite Europe's troubles.

The group's employment index, which measures employers' willingness to hire, rose 1.3 percent. That was the highest level since May 2004. New orders, a gauge of future production, were unchanged.

"The European fiscal crisis doesn't appear to have harmed the prospects of U.S. manufacturers, at least not yet," wrote Paul Ashworth, senior U.S. economist with Capital Economics.

John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo, said: "It does look like there's sustainable economic growth in the U.S. for the time being."

Expiring tax credits for first-time homebuyers helped drive the 4.4 percent rise in home construction spending. And portions of the $787 billion stimulus package approved last year by Congress boosted government building 2.4 percent.

The other major sector, nonresidential construction, climbed 1.7 percent. That marked the first such advance since March 2009. The strength came from gains in private sector work on communications projects and power generation facilities. Construction of office buildings and the category that includes shopping centers fell.

Apple's Jobs says iPad idea came before iPhone

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. (AP)—Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs shared a secret with his audience at a technology conference outside Los Angeles Tuesday: The idea for the iPad came before the iPhone.

The idea to ditch the keyboard for what Jobs calls a multi-touch display came about in the early 2000s, although the company was working on a telephone at the time, he said. That's when a prototype came to him that used the device's now-famous scrolling mechanism.

"I thought, 'My God we can build a phone out of this,'" Jobs said at The Wall Street Journal's "D: All Things Digital" conference in Rancho Palos Verdes.

But the tablet product was put on the shelf, the iPhone went into development for several years before making its debut in 2007 and Apple started selling the iPad tablet computer in April.

Both products have taken on more of the personal computing tasks once handled by computers running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system and other programs.

That's helped Apple surpass Microsoft, its longtime nemesis, as the largest technology company in the world by market capitalization—a milestone it achieved last week.

"It's surreal," Jobs said Tuesday.

Although he acknowledged the popularity of the iPhone has caused network troubles at carrier AT&T, Jobs said the problems would have happened to any wireless phone company with that many iPhone and iPad users.

He said many places in the U.S. will have much better reception by the end of the summer. He did not rule out having the iPhone operate on other carriers in the future.

Ahead of a major software developers conference scheduled to begin June 7 in San Francisco, Jobs was characteristically tightlipped about what, if any, new features would be on new iPhone models.

As for the iPad's stunning popularity, Jobs said the device was beginning to erode the usefulness of the personal computer.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to $72 as economy concerns drag on crude

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $72 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as flagging investor optimism about the global economy drags down stocks and commodities. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down 52 cents at $72.06 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.39 to settle at $72.58 on Tuesday. Equity markets and oil prices have been battered for the last month amid fears Europe's debt crisis could spread and slow global economic growth. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1.1 percent Tuesday while Asian stocks were mixed on Wednesday.

Asian shares lower on cues from Japan, US

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stocks were mostly lower Wednesday after a fall on Wall Street connected to the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and amid news that Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama will resign. It was the second day of losses for the region's markets, with benchmark indexes in Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong down. South Korea's market was closed for nationwide local elections. A few smaller markets like Thailand and the Philippines were higher, bucking the regional trend. Oil fell to nearly $72 per barrel, while the dollar gained against the yen but retreated versus the euro.

Honda says China factory back to work after strike

BEIJING (AP)—Honda Motor Co. said a key parts factory in China resumed full operation Wednesday following a two-week strike over wages that forced Honda to halt production at four assembly plants. The strike highlighted tensions between workers and foreign companies that look to China as a source of cheap labor and a fast-growing market amid weak demand elsewhere. Work resumed after employees of the factory belonging to Honda's joint venture, Guangqi Honda Automobile Co., accepted Honda's pay increase offer. The plant in the southern city of Foshan, near Hong Kong, makes transmissions and engine parts.

Nation

Right to remain silent? Suspect better speak up

WASHINGTON (AP)—Want to invoke your right to remain silent? You'll have to speak up.

Sotomayor

In a narrowly split decision, the Supreme Court's conservative majority expanded its limits on the famous Miranda rights for criminal suspects on Tuesday—over the dissent of new Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who said the ruling turned Americans' rights of protection from police abuse "upside down."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion, said a suspect who goes ahead and talks to police after being informed he doesn't have to has waived his right to remain silent. Elena Kagan, who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to join the court, sided with the police as U.S. solicitor general when the case came before the court. She would replace Justice John Paul Stevens, one of the dissenters.

A right to remain silent and a right to a lawyer are at the top of the warnings that police recite to suspects during arrests and interrogations. But Tuesday's majority said that suspects must break their silence and tell police they are going to remain quiet to stop an interrogation, just as they must tell police that they want a lawyer.

This decision means that police can keep shooting questions at a suspect who refuses to talk as long as they want in hopes that the person will crack and give them some information, said Richard Friedman, a University of Michigan law professor.

"It's a little bit less restraint that the officers have to show," Friedman said.

The ruling comes in a case in which a suspect, Van Chester Thompkins, remained mostly silent for a three-hour police interrogation before implicating himself in a Jan. 10, 2000, murder in Southfield, Mich. He appealed his conviction, saying he had invoked his Miranda right to remain silent by remaining silent.

Kennedy, writing the decision for the court's conservatives, said that wasn't enough.

"Thompkins did not say that he wanted to remain silent or that he did not want to talk to police," Kennedy said. "Had he made either of these simple, unambiguous statements, he would have invoked his 'right to cut off questioning.' Here he did neither, so he did not invoke his right to remain silent."

Glitch shows how much US military relies on GPS

DENVER (AP)—A problem that rendered as many as 10,000 U.S. military GPS receivers useless for days is a warning to safeguard a system that enemies would love to disrupt, a defense expert says.

The Air Force has not said how many weapons, planes or other systems were affected or whether any were in use in Iraq or Afghanistan. But the problem, blamed on incompatible software, highlights the military's reliance on the Global Positioning System and the need to protect technology that has become essential for protecting troops, tracking vehicles and targeting weapons.

"Everything that moves uses it," said John Pike, director of Globalsecurity.org, which tracks military and homeland security news. "It is so central to the American style of war that you just couldn't leave home without it."

The problem occurred when new software was installed in ground control systems for GPS satellites on Jan. 11, the Air Force said.

Officials said between 8,000 at 10,000 receivers could have been affected, out of more than 800,000 in use across the military.

Ft. Hood shooting suspect solemn, quiet in hearing

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—Wearing his Army uniform and sitting solemnly in a wheelchair, the psychiatrist accused of gunning down 13 people at Fort Hood made his first courtroom appearance Tuesday and won a delay in his case.

Maj. Nidal Hasan, who was paralyzed after being shot by two Fort Hood police officers, only spoke when answering questions about the proceedings with a soft: "Yes, sir."

His attorneys sought a delay in his Article 32 hearing because they needed more time to review reams of documents they recently received and still lacked other key documents, including the FBI ballistics report and a government review on the Nov. 5 shootings.

The Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding in which a judge hears witness testimony to determine whether the case should go to trial, is set for Oct. 4.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the worst shooting on a U.S. military post.

Before Tuesday's one-hour hearing, Hasan was flanked by military police as he rolled his wheelchair into the courtroom and up to the defense table. One of his attorneys said Hasan was cold, and later an attorney draped a large seafoam-green blanket around his shoulders. Hasan pulled it tightly against him and sometimes covered his nose with it during the proceeding.

ACROSS THE NATION

Funny smell forces evacuation and delay of flight

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco International Airport officials say a Chicago-bound flight was evacuated and delayed six hours after a crew member smelled a strange odor coming from a carry-on bag. Officials say the United Airlines flight was taxiing to the runway Tuesday morning when a flight attendant noticed a "pungent chemical odor" emanating from a bag that contained Chinese herbs. The passengers were taken off the plane and re-screened, while dogs and hazardous materials and explosive teams searched the aircraft. Investigators did not find anything suspicious on the plane or passengers and determined the strange smell came from the Chinese herbs, which were owned by an elderly couple who did not speak English fluently.

Iowa City police say drunken driver was naked

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Iowa City police say they were able to track down a drunken driver who struck a street sign thanks in part to his clothing. His lack of clothing, that is. Police say witnesses told officers they saw a naked man drive away from a convenience store early Tuesday and hit a street sign. Police found the damaged car a short time later. The driver was gone, but police say they found the man, still naked, outside his neighbor's apartment. Authorities say the 20-year-old man had a blood-alcohol content of .189 percent, more than twice the legal limit. Police say witnesses from the convenience store were able to identify the naked man as the driver of the vehicle.

Mother accused of killing daughter hurt in fall

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A Florida mother charged with murdering her 2-year-old daughter missed a court hearing after she suffered some minor injuries in a fall at an Orlando courthouse. Twenty-four-year-old Casey Anthony fell when her hand and leg restraints became entangled. She fell forward, and officers escorting her were unable to stop her fall. Anthony has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and has said a baby sitter kidnapped her daughter, Caylee. Her trial is set to start next May. The hearing went on without her. Her attorneys asked the judge to reconsider making her eligible for the death penalty, but the judge refused. The judge will rule later on a request to seal records of Anthony's visitors in jail.

Dieting for dollars? More US employees trying it

ATLANTA (AP)—How much money would it take to get you to lose some serious weight? $100? $500?

Many employers are betting they can find your price. At least a third of U.S. companies offer financial incentives, or are planning to introduce them, to get their employees to lose weight or get healthier in other ways.

"There's been an explosion of interest in this," said Dr. Kevin Volpp, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Health Incentives.

Take OhioHealth, a hospital chain whose workforce is mostly overweight. The company last year embarked on a program that paid employees to wear pedometers and get paid for walking. The more they walk, the more they win—up to $500 a year.

Anecdotal success stories are everywhere. Half of the 9,000 employees at the chain's five main hospitals signed up, more than $377,000 in rewards have already been paid out, and many workers tell of weight loss and a sudden need for slimmer clothes.

But does will this kind of effort really put a permanent dent in American's seemingly intractable obesity problem? Not likely.

"It's probably a waste of time," said Kelly Brownell, director of Yale University's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity.

Brownell's assessment is harsher than most. But the science seems to back him up.

Only about 15 to 20 U.S. studies have tried to evaluate the effect of financial incentives on weight loss. Most of those studies were small and didn't look at whether such measures worked beyond a few months. None could make conclusions about how much money it takes to make a lasting difference for most people.

Perhaps the largest effort to date was an observational study by Cornell University. It looked at seven employer programs and the results were depressing: The average weight loss in most was little more than a pound.

Sure, there are grounds for optimism.

AP

In this photo taken May 20, 2010, Kevin Acocella, market strategist for IBM Systems & Technology Group, poses outside of the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, Calif.

ON THE NET

- Penn research: http://www.med.upenn.edu/ldichi/docs/issue-brief-feb-091.pdf

Smaller experiments report some success. And other studies have shown promising results against tobacco. One study published last year in the New England Journal of Medicine, co-authored by Volpp, found that cash rewards of a few hundred dollars nearly tripled quit-smoking rates.

One problem: "Food is more difficult than tobacco," said Steven Kelder, an epidemiology professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

While cigarettes can be addictive, people don't need to smoke to live, and advertising and clean-air restrictions curb tobacco's presence. People must eat, however, and sugary drinks and fatty snacks are everywhere, Kelder and others said.

Asia

Japan's prime minister steps down over base row

TOKYO (AP)—Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Wednesday he was resigning over his broken campaign promise to move a U.S. Marine base off the southern island of Okinawa.

AP

Japan's Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama speaks during the Joint Plenary Meeting of Party Members of Both Houses of the Diet in Tokyo Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

The prime minister faced growing pressure from within his own party to resign ahead of July's upper house elections. His approval ratings had plummeted over his bungled handling of the relocation of the Marine Air Station Futenma, which reinforced his public image as an indecisive leader.

Hatoyama is the fourth Japanese prime minister to resign in four years.

Until Tuesday night, Hatoyama insisted he would stay on while intermittently holding talks with key members of his Democratic Party of Japan. But on Wednesday morning, after eight months in office, Hatoyama faced the nation to say he was stepping down.

"Since last year's elections, I tried to change politics in which the people of Japan would be the main characters," he told a news conference broadcast nationwide. But he conceded his efforts fell short.

"That's mainly because of my failings," he said.

Hatoyama, 63, cited two main reasons for his resignation: the Futenma issue, which led to the dismissal of one of his Cabinet members who could not accept his decision, and a political funding scandal. In that incident, two of his aides were convicted of falsifying political contribution reports and sentenced to suspended prison terms. Hatoyama himself did not face charges in the case, but it tainted his image.

His government came to power amid high hopes in September after his party soundly defeated the long-ruling conservatives in lower house elections.

Hatoyama had promised to forge a "more equal" relationship with the United States and to move Futenma off Okinawa, which hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan under a security pact.

Building collapses in Bangladesh, 14 bodies found

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A four-story apartment building collapsed in Bangladesh's capital and its debris buried some nearby shanties, killing at least 14 people and leaving several others trapped, authorities said Wednesday.

Fire official Abdus Salam said some of those trapped were feared dead.

Rescuers recovered four bodies after 10 bodies were pulled earlier from the wreckage and six injured people were rescued and taken to hospital, Salam said. There were casualties in the tin-roof shanties, he said. Army troops joined the rescue work.

"We see more people crushed under the debris," Salam told The Associated Press from the site of the accident in Dhaka's central Tejgaon district. "So the death toll is likely to go up."

Salam said the four-story building was built on what was once a canal and the owner had been adding another story to it. Local media reported the owner had not sought permission from the city development authorities to add the new story. They cited officials from the Capital Development Authority, which oversees building construction in Dhaka.

Another fire official, Ataur Rahman, said it was not known how many people were inside the building at the time of the accident.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Al-Qaida: No. 3 official killed with family

WASHINGTON (AP)—Al-Qaida announced Monday that its No. 3 official, Mustafa al-Yazid, had been killed along with members of his family—perhaps one of the most severe blows to the terror movement since the U.S. campaign against al-Qaida began. A U.S. official said al-Yazid was believed to have died in a U.S. missile strike. A statement posted on an al-Qaida Website said al-Yazid, which it described as the organization's top commander in Afghanistan, was killed along with his wife, three daughters, a grandchild and other men, women and children but did not say how or where. The statement did not give an exact date for al-Yazid's death, but it was dated by the Islamic calendar month of "Jemadi al-Akhar," which falls in May. A U.S. official in Washington said word was "spreading in extremist circles" of his death in Pakistan's tribal areas in the past two weeks. His death would be a major blow to al-Qaida, which in December "lost both its internal and external operations chiefs," the official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information.

RP tests sex education in public schools

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine elementary and high schools will start teaching basic sex education as a pilot program in the conservative Roman Catholic nation, officials said Tuesday, brushing aside concerns by church leaders that it may encourage promiscuity among the youth. The classes, however, won't include information about contraceptives—another controversial topic in this heavily Catholic nation. Starting this year, sex education will be integrated in regular subjects including science, health, English and physical education, said Assistant Education Secretary Teresita Inciong, who is heading the project funded by the U.N. Population Fund. "It will be better if the schools teach sex education rather than children just picking this up from just anywhere like the Internet," said Education Secretary Mona Valisno.

Taliban claim attack on Afghan peace conference

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban have claimed responsibility for a suicide attack launched against a national peace conference in the Afghan capital. In a telephone call to the Associated Press, militant spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said Wednesday that at around 10 a.m., a group of four suicide attackers disguised in Afghan army uniform had opened fire and attacked the "jirga," as the conference is known. He said they were aiming "to sabotage and destroy this peace jirga." He said: "Our fighters will continue fighting to the death." Witnesses said gunfire was continuing. Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary said Afghan forces were surrounding a house about 500 yards (meters) from the conference venue where militants were apparently holed up.

World

Israel deports activists from Gaza-bound flotilla

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Wednesday quickened the pace of expelling detained activists from a Gaza-bound flotilla as the diplomatic fallout from its deadly raid on the ships widened. With relations with Turkey at a new low, Israel ordered families of its diplomats out of that country.

About 200 Turkish activists were bused before dawn to Israel's international airport for flights home, while 124 from a dozen Muslim nations without diplomatic relations with Israel were deported and crossed into Jordan before sunrise.

■■■

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel and Egypt signaled a temporary easing of the Gaza Strip blockade Tuesday following harsh international condemnation of the deadly Israeli raid on an aid flotilla en route to the sealed-off Palestinian territory.

Egypt said it was freely opening its border with Gaza for the first time in more than a year to allow in humanitarian aid, setting off a mad rush to the crossing by thousands of residents, while an Israeli official said there is an "ongoing dialogue" with the international community on how to expand the amount of goods entering the area.

At the same time, Israel began expelling some of the nearly 700 activists it rounded up in the naval raid, and strongly rejected criticism that its tactics were heavy-handed. The government said late Tuesday it would deport almost all of them within the next two days, but about 50 would be held for investigation into their part in the violence on at sea.

■■■

Israel has come under censure worldwide ever since its naval commandos stormed an aid flotilla in international waters on Monday, setting off clashes that left nine activists dead and dozens wounded. Israel says its soldiers opened fire only after coming under attack.

Israel on Tuesday announced it would deport most of the nearly 700 activists detained during the raid. Corrections department spokesman Yaron Zamir said Wednesday that the 200 Turkish activists would board planes Turkey had sent to pick them up.

Agatha deaths rise to 180 in Central America

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Villagers used hoes and pick axes on Tuesday to hunt for victims of landslides that have killed at least 180 people in Central America while officials in Guatemala's capital tried to cope with a vast sinkhole that swallowed a clothing factory.

Thousands remained homeless and dozens still missing following the season's first tropical storm. Rescue crews struggled to reach isolated communities to distribute food and water.

"This is a total tragedy," said Jose Vicente Samayoa, president of a neighborhood group in Amatitlan, a flooded town south of Guatemala's capital.

Officials in Guatemala reported 152 dead but said 100 people were still missing. In the department of Chimaltenango - a province west of Guatemala City—landslides buried rural Indian communities and killed at least 60 people.

Curious onlookers also gathered at a massive and almost perfectly circular sinkhole that swallowed an entire intersection in Guatemala City over the weekend, gulping down a clothing factory but causing no deaths or injuries.

Bill Clinton returns to Haiti on recovery mission

LEOGANE, Haiti (AP)—Bill Clinton returned to Haiti on a new mission Tuesday to invigorate recovery from January's devastating earthquake and help millions end lives of poverty and danger.

On his first visit since becoming co-chairman of the committee overseeing more than $5.3 billion in international reconstruction aid, the former U.S. president visited the seaside town of Leogane, next to the Jan. 12 epicenter. Less than a fifth of its buildings survived, and thousands of residents are at risk from floods and high winds.

Clinton arrived on the first official day of hurricane season, with experts warning this year's could be intense because of warm Atlantic waters and a waning the El Nino effect.

Standing under a blazing sun a few yards from dozens of homeless people and their overheated shelters, Clinton said he was not happy with the pace of recovery so far but expressed optimism that conditions could rapidly improve.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cancun mayor charged with ties to drug cartels

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The mayor of Cancun was charged with drug trafficking ties Tuesday, forcing him to end his campaign for governor in a scandal that has shaken Mexico's upcoming state elections. A federal judge indicted Gregorio Sanchez on charges of organized crime and money laundering a week after he was arrested in Mexico's most important tourist resort. Prosecutors say he protected two of Mexico's most brutal drug gangs and lived beyond his means. The formal charges bar Sanchez from participating in politics, ending his run for governor of the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo.

Crews probe Guatemala sinkhole as neighbors flee

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A cavernous and almost perfectly round sinkhole swallowed an entire intersection in Guatemala City during a tropical storm, spooking people in the neighborhood but exciting geologists. The hole is 66 feet (20 meters) across and plunges nearly 100 feet (30 meters) deep. Geologists said Tuesday that the circular shape suggested a cave formation underneath, but what exactly caused the sinkhole was still a mystery. "I can tell you what it's not: It's not a geological fault, and it's not the product of an earthquake," said David Monterroso, a geophysics engineer at the National Disaster Management Agency. "That's all we know. We're going to have to descend." The sinkhole formed Saturday and gulped down a clothing factory about three miles (two kilometers) from the site of a similar sinkhole three years ago.

Bus overturns at night in Cameroon; 45 killed

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP)—An official says at least 45 people have died after a bus overturned in the West African nation of Cameroon during an overnight journey. District official Mamadou Balla says the driver was apparently dozing while the bus was traveling at top speed. The vehicle, which was carrying about 60 passengers, overturned at a sharp turn in the road. Villagers came upon the twisted wreck on Sunday. The bus was traveling to the capital of Yaounde when it crashed in Etoundou village, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of the capital.

Environment

Spots still available for DEQ'S free summer camp

The 2010 Ridge to Reef Camp, a free hands-on environmental education program, is still accepting applicants for the summer.

The weeklong program aims to educate youth about the connections between land (terrestrial) and sea (marine). Participants hike, snorkel and learn about conservation areas around the island.

The camp is scheduled from July 26 to July 30 (8am to 12pm). It is open to students entering the 4th to 6th grades. Its goals are to:

- Introduce the roles wetlands, watersheds and marine protected areas play in coral reef health and public health.
- Help students recognize the interconnectedness of these systems.
- Inspire students to share this knowledge with their family and friends.

Students will explore these systems in the field and through hands-on activities in order to gain a better understanding of how each is related to the other.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Ridge to Reef Camp are introduced to the roles wetlands, watersheds and marine protected areas play in coral reef health and public health.

CONTACT INFO

Lisa H. Eller
Federal Programs Outreach and Publications Coordinator
Division of Environmental Quality
664-8500 or lisaeller@deq.gov.mp

The 2010 Ridge to Reef program on Saipan is a collaborative project of the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, Division of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Memorial Park.

For information and to register, contact Lisa Eller, DEQ, at 664-8500 or Brooke Nevitt, CRM, at 664-8300. ***(PR)***

DO YOUR PART

Pick a safer sunscreen

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We all know just how important it is to use sunscreen on our family and ourselves. But when you're in the sunscreen aisle it can be overwhelming to try and pick out the ones that are the safest. And even though you may want to grab any old one and go, there is definite reason to take your time. Do Your Part and be informed about the ingredients in many brands that could actually be bad for you and the planet.

The Environmental Working Group, a non-profit public health and environmental research and advocacy organization based in Washington, DC, studied nearly a thousand brand named sunscreens in 2009. Three out of five did not adequately protect our skin from the sun or they were made with chemicals that could be harmful to people. Remember, those same harmful chemicals build up in our environment—whether it washes off in the ocean or goes down our shower drain and into the water supply!

One common and controversial sunscreen ingredient is oxybenzone. Its primary function is to absorb ultraviolet light but research shows it can also be absorbed through the skin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study in 2008 showing that 97 percent of Americans they tested were contaminated with oxybenzone. Oxybenzone is currently allowed in sunscreens but recent research is revealing that it is linked to allergies, hormone disruption, and cell damage that can lead to skin cancer. Another study by the CDC also revealed that oxybenzone is linked to low birth weight in baby girls whose mothers were exposed during pregnancy. In the environment, researchers believe oxybenzone may be contributing to the feminizing of certain species of male fish in our oceans, rivers and lakes.

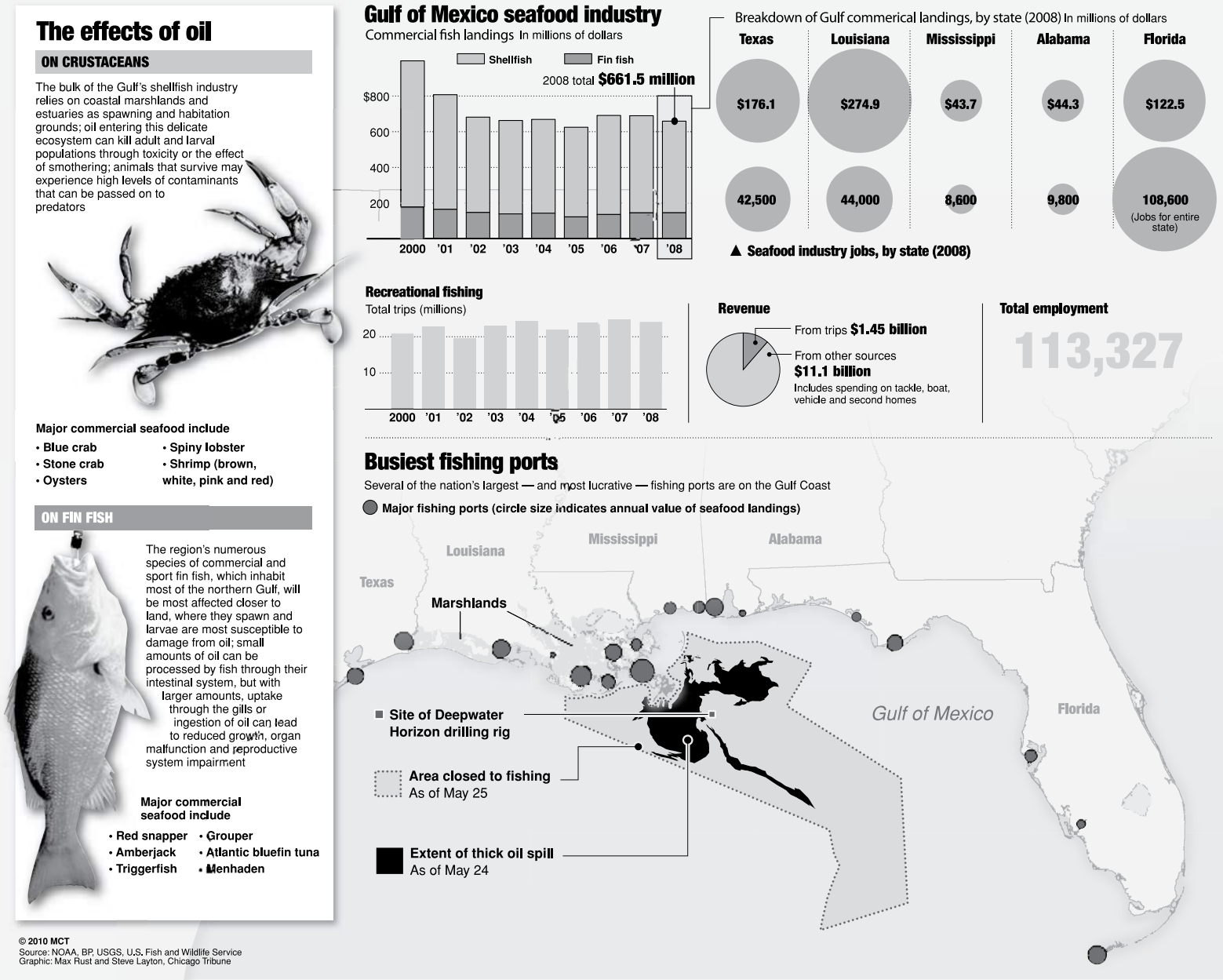
So why is oxybenzone still considered 'safe' for use in sunscreens? Unfortunately, the Federal Drug and Food Administration (FDA), which regulates sunscreen safety, has not updated mandatory sunscreen standards in over 30 years! Current FDA oversight of sunscreens is largely confined to ensuring that sunscreens prevent sunburn and that the manufacturers labeling claims can be supported. This means that the FDA is only regulating the sun protection factor from ultraviolet B (UVB) rays that cause sunburns, and not ultraviolet A (UVA) rays that can cause melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. The regulations do nothing to address health concerns centered on oxybenzone.

What should you do? The best advice is to look for a broad-spectrum sunscreen that offers protection from both UVB and UVA rays but does not contain oxybenzone. This will give you the most protection from the sun's harmful rays without polluting your body or the environment. Sunscreens containing zinc oxide or titanium oxide are recommended by the Environmental Working Group. You can find a list of brand name products that meet their recommendations online at www.doyourpart/columns.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more everyday green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com.

Threatening an economic engine

Even if the leaking BP oil well is permanently plugged, the spilled oil in the Gulf of Mexico will threaten profits for recreational and commercial fishing operations, which make up one of the largest industries in the region. Although the number of oiled fish washing up on shore appears to be small so far, officials warn that the impact could be enormous and have already some of area fishing grounds.


The effects of oil
ON CRUSTACEANS
The bulk of the Gulf's shellfish industry relies on coastal marshlands and estuaries as spawning and habitation grounds; oil entering this delicate ecosystem can kill adult and larval populations through toxicity or the effect of smothering; animals that survive may experience high levels of contaminants that can be passed on to predators
Major commercial seafood include
• Blue crab
• Stone crab
• Oysters
• Spiny lobster
• Shrimp (brown, white, pink and red)
ON FIN FISH
The region's numerous species of commercial and sport fin fish, which inhabit most of the northern Gulf, will be most affected closer to land, where they spawn and larvae are most susceptible to damage from oil; small amounts of oil can be processed by fish through their intestinal system, but with larger amounts, uptake through the gills or ingestion of oil can lead to reduced growth, organ malfunction and reproductive system impairment
Major commercial seafood include
• Red snapper
• Amberjack
• Triggerfish
• Grouper
• Atlantic bluefin tuna
• Menhaden
Gulf of Mexico seafood industry
Commercial fish landings In millions of dollars
Shellfish
Fin fish
2008 total $661.5 million
$800
600
400
200
2000 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08
Breakdown of Gulf commerical landings, by state (2008) In millions of dollars
Texas
Louisiana
Mississippi
Alabama
Florida
$176.1
$274.9
$43.7
$44.3
$122.5
42,500
44,000
8,600
9,800
108,600
(Jobs for entire state)
▲ Seafood industry jobs, by state (2008)
Recreational fishing
Total trips (millions)
20
10
2000 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08
Revenue
From trips $1.45 billion
From other sources
$11.1 billion
Includes spending on tackle, boat, vehicle and second homes
Total employment
113,327
Busiest fishing ports
Several of the nation's largest — and most lucrative — fishing ports are on the Gulf Coast
Major fishing ports (circle size indicates annual value of seafood landings)
Louisiana
Mississippi
Alabama
Texas
Marshlands
Site of Deepwater Horizon drilling rig
Area closed to fishing
As of May 25
Extent of thick oil spill
As of May 24
Gulf of Mexico
Florida
© 2010 MCT
Source: NOAA, BP, USGS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Graphic: Max Rust and Steve Layton, Chicago Tribune

'First Friday Films' kicks off in July at AMP

Every first Friday of the month, starting in July, a free environmental film will be shown to the community at the American Memorial Park Theater.

"First Friday Films" was inspired by the exceptional turnout and response to the films played during Environmental Awareness Month in April. Hundreds of people came out to see the *Lorax*, *HOME* and *The End of the Line*. The overwhelmingly positive reaction to the films illustrated the power of cinema to educate and inspire a wide variety of people.

Each month a film will represent a monthlong theme of activities aimed at inspiring the community to become actively involved and make environmentally friendly choices.

Sponsored by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, the first film to be featured on Friday, July 2, at 7pm is *Black Wave*, a documentary about the 20-year legacy of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. In the early hours of March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil supertanker ran aground in Alaska and discharged millions of gallons of crude oil into sensitive Artic waters. The incident became the biggest environmental catastrophe in North American history.

Given the recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the allowance of further drilling by the Obama administration, *Black Wave* is a timely and relevant feature that will educate the community about the risks associated with offshore oil exploration.

Following the film, local oil spill responders will discuss the Gulf of Mexico spill and the response plans in place for the CNMI.

"First Fridays" is coordinated through a partnership between the Division of Environmental Quality and American Memorial Park, with the generous support of organizations such as MINA. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Konflikt clothing brand goes to Jiu-Jitsu World Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The official walkout shirt for the Philippine delegation to the World Jiu-jitsu Championship 2010 in the United States.

The Saipan-based MMA clothing company, Konflikt, was recently selected as the official walkout shirt provider for the team that will represent the Philippines at the World Jiu-jitsu Championship 2010 in the United States.

Better known as the Mundials, the World Jiu-jitsu Championship tests the most skilled and well trained athletes on the planet. The tournament takes place from Thursday June 3, through Sunday, June 6, in California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, California, USA.

"It is an honor to outfit the Filipino fighters who will represent the Philippines in the Mundials," said Norman Del Rosario. "I've poured my heart and soul into this design because I want them to wear the very best."

URCC founder and president Alvin Aguilar will represent the Philippines, along with Pichon Garcia, Andrew Laxa, and three Filipinos from the United States.

ON THE NET

- www.konfliktmma.net

While the fighter/promoter had plenty of brands to choose from, Aguilar said that he opted for Del Rosario's unique composition and passion for MMA.

"We chose Konflikt to design our walkout shirts because the brand represents the spirit of our team and the unrelenting heart of Jiu-Jitsu champions around the world," said Aguilar.

New Konflikt designs are constantly being added to the line, as Konflikt listens to the fighters what they want to see next from the brand. The full line of Konflikt MMA Clothing is available exclusively at the 670 Rock Steady Shop in Gualo Rai.

About Konflikt MMA Clothing: Konflikt MMA Clothing believes in always accepting a challenge, refusing to play it safe, taking chances, never backing down and putting it all on the line for what you believe in.

Konflikt MMA Clothing embodies the heart and soul of those into MMA Lifestyle. Their mission is to create authentic, high quality products for the top mixed martial artists in the world. Konflikt MMA Clothing is dedicated to providing excellence in design and quality at a value that consumers appreciate. For more information about Konflikt MMA Clothing visit www.konfliktmma.net. ***(PR)***

In Loving Memory of

Estefania Charfauros Reyes Pendergrass

Better known as ***"Nia"*** *or* ***"Stefanie"***

Born on July 24, 1924 in Saipan and a long time resident of Lacey, Washington
Was called by her Creator to Eternal Rest on May 10, 2010
At Providence St. Peters Hospital, Olympia, Washington

In Her new life, she now joins:

Father:	†Juan Sablan Delos Reyes
Mother:	†Pilar Muna Charfarous Reyes
Brothers:	†Juan Ch. Reyes, †Ajejandro Ch. Reyes, †Manuel San Nicolas Pangelinan
Sisters:	†Leonarda Ch. Reyes, †Leonarda Ch. Reyes, †Maximina Ch. Reyes, †Maria Ch. Reyes
Parents In-Law:	†Tom Morgan & †Mary Elizabeth Sizemore Pendergrass
Brother in-law:	†Ernest Clifford Pendergrass & †William Thomas Pendergrass
Sister in-law:	†Joaquina Pangelinan Reyes, †Victorina Manglona Pangelinan †Cassie Reynolds, †Alberta Murrel, †Carrie Alice Stegner, †Lillian Halcomb, & †Dessie Pearl Schmidt

Her Loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Grover Cleveland Pendergrass

Children: ***William Thomas*** & Calista T. Pendergrass (Deseriee Ann & George A. Barcinas,- (TotingEthan Barcinas) Pilar Marie T. Pendergrass, William T. Pendergrass II
Brenda Zina P. & Richard C. Byram: (Richard Byram- (Lendon Byram), Marissa Rodgers - (Aaron Rodgers, Elliot Rodgers, Dane Rodgers & Caden Rodgers), Aaron Byram, Levi Byram & Lisa Byram)
Grover Cleveland Pendergrass Jr. (Brian Magee)
Richard Allen Pendergrass (Richard Pendergrass II)
Evelyn Byram & Christopher Czechowski (Charles Caldwell-(Jonathan, Jasmine, Savannah Byram), Stephanie Mull-(Andrew, Sarah, Chloe Mull)

Brothers:	Marcelino Ch. Reyes, Jesus Ch. Reyes
Sister:	Cecilia Reyes Pangelinan
Sister In-Laws:	Teresa M. Reyes, Alberta Reyes
Brother In-Laws:	Del Pangelinan

She will also live in the hearts of numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

A Private Family Viewing was held at Funeral Alternatives, Lacey Washington. On Thursday, May 13, 2010 between 09:00a.m-10:00a.m. Cremation of her body was followed on the same day. A Memorial Christian Mass was held at St. Michaels Catholic Church in Olympia, Washington on Friday, May 14, 2010 at 11:00a.m. Estefania's Urn with her Ashes is flown back to Rota on May 28, 2010 with her son William T. Pendergrass who resides in Ginalagan, Rota for a nightly family rosary being held at 8:00p.m. On Friday, June 4, 2010 her Urn with Ashes will be flown to Saipan, there the final nightly rosary will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 7:00p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 06:00a.m. On June 5, 2010 at Mount Carmel Church and interment will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery to honor her last wishes. May she rest in peace forever with our Lord our Savior.

Thank you for your Condolences & Prayers.

Pendergrass Family

Al and Tipper Gore separate after 40-year marriage

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Al Gore once claimed his romance with wife Tipper inspired the novel "Love Story" and the couple shared an uncomfortably long kiss before millions on the stage of the Democratic National Convention.

Now, after a 40-year marriage that survived the near-death of a child and the heartache of losing the disputed 2000 presidential election, the former high school sweethearts are calling it quits.

"After a great deal of thought and discussion, we have decided to separate," the Gores wrote in an e-mail to friends on Tuesday. "This is very much a mutual and mutually supportive decision that we have made together."

Gore spokeswoman Kalee Kreider confirmed the statement came from the Gores, but declined to comment further.

The Gores told friends they "grew apart" after four decades of marriage and there was no affair involved, according to two longtime close associates and family friends.

The couple had carved out separate lives over time, with the 62-year-old former vice president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate on the road frequently, said the associates, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the couple's behalf.

"Their lives had gotten more and more separated," one of the friends said.

The couple, who own homes in Nashville and Gore's hometown of Carthage, Tenn., had reportedly purchased an $8.8 million estate in Montecito, Calif., this spring.

Married on May 19, 1970, at the National Cathedral in Washington, the Gores crafted an image of a happy couple during his eight-year stint as vice president in the 1990s and a presidential candidate in 2000.

Their warm relationship stood in sharp contrast to the Clinton marriage rocked by Bill Clinton's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, a scandal that hung over Gore's own presidential campaign.

At the time, Gore said his wife was "someone I've loved with my whole heart since the night of my high school senior prom." Then, as if to prove it, he planted that long, awkward kiss on her during the 2000 Democratic presidential convention.

Such public affection did much to enliven the former vice president's stuffy image. Tipper Gore, 61, painted a picture of a playful relationship, saying in a 2000 interview with The Associated Press that she teased her husband while he prepared for presidential debates by e-mailing him "lascivious" messages.

"He e-mails me back and says, 'I'm losing my concentration now,'" she said.

AP

In this Aug. 17, 2000 file photo. then-Vice President Al Gore kisses his wife Tipper as he steps onto the stage at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

"He's a little bit more of a gregarious flirt than people would realize—all within bounds," she added.

In a speech to the 2004 Democratic convention, Gore said he wanted to thank "with all my heart my children and grandchildren, and especially my beloved partner in life, Tipper."

The "Love Story" claim came in 1997, when Gore told a reporter he and Tipper were the inspiration for Erich Segal's 1970s best-seller. A surprised Segal said that Gore, whom he knew at Harvard, had inspired one side of his male hero's personality—the one controlled by a domineering father—but his book had nothing to do with Tipper Gore.

In a letter written to then-girlfriend Tipper as a 17-year-old college freshman, Al Gore hinted at that dynamic. "Mother's having a fit about me riding the motorcycle back to Harvard. Dad's mad at my long hair," he wrote.

The Gores have four children, Karenna, Kristin, Sarah and Albert III, all now adults. Their son underwent rehab treatment in 2007 after marijuana and prescription drugs were found in his car when he was pulled over for driving 100 mph in his Toyota Prius.

After losing the 2000 election, Gore turned his attention to climate change, undertaking a worldwide campaign which led in 2007 to a Nobel Peace Prize and an Oscar for the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

The couple were married about six months when Gore deployed to Vietnam as an Army public information officer. When he got home, he landed a job as a reporter at The Tennessean in Nashville, and his wife worked there as a photographer. Her interest in photography continued after she left journalism and she usually had a camera with her while helping her husband on his campaigns.

Gore later served in his father's former seats in Congress for 16 years.

Determined to avoid pitfalls that snared his father, who was accused of being out of touch, Gore kept a punishing schedule, traveling home to Tennessee for open meetings three weekends a month—and leaving wife Tipper alone in Washington with their four young children.

Gore first ran for president in 1988 at age 39 but drew little support outside the South. A planned bid for the 1992 nomination was put aside after the Gores' 6-year-old son Albert III almost died after being hit by a car in 1989.

"It was a very spiritual time for both of us," Tipper Gore later wrote. "In Al's case, he decided to write a book and not to run for president in 1992."

The book was "Earth in the Balance," and Al Gore ended up in the thick of the 1992 campaign anyway—as Bill Clinton's running mate.

In Washington, the Gores were a power couple—with a light-hearted touch. On Halloween, they would dress in costumes to greet trick-or-treaters at the vice president's mansion. One year she was a puppy and he was dressed as Underdog.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Irwin Joshua G. Welle

August 18, 2002 – May 28, 2010

This is to inform the relatives and friends that Irwin Joshua G. Welle, the son of Joseph George and Editha G. Welle was called to his eternal rest on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Daily Mass is being offered at Kristo Rai Church, 6am.

Final Viewing will be on June 3, 2010, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, immediately followed by a mass. The body will be sent to the Philippines on June 3, 2010 at 10:30pm.

Thank you very much!

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Maria Reyes Demapan

(ONKA)

Born: February 6, 1944 • Died: May 27, 2010

In her death, she now joins her:

Parents: †Luis Lujan Reyes and †Antonia Sablan Santos/ †Romaldo Masga Santos
Parents In Law: †Francisco Borja and †Ana Dlg. Demapan
Son: †Raymond R. Demapan
Brothers: †Juan S. Santos, †Francisco S. Santos, †Jose S. Santos
Sisters: †Isabel R. Lacaden, †Conchita S. Santos
Brother In Law: †William Maratita, †Jaime Lacaden, †Juan Dlg. Demapan
Sisters In Laws: †Rufina D. Palacios, †Teresita Dlg. Demapan, †Maria D. Sablan, †Virginia Dlg. Demapan

Her peaceful spirit will live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Ramon Dlg. Demapan
Children and Grandchildren:
Mary Ann D. and Nobert B. Camacho and children
Donna D. and Joseph A. Manalo and children
†Raymond R. Demapan and Anita A. Demapan and children
Leonora D. and Victor SN. Shai and children
Frank R. Demapan and children
Judy D. and Edward S. Reyes and children
Maureen Camacho and child
Stacey Lou Demapan / Flora Aguon

Brother, Sisters and in laws:
Pedro S. Santos, Mariana S. and Frank Oliver, Julita E. Santos, Victoria S. Maratita and Soledad S. and Thomas Ito

Brother in laws and Sister in laws:
Raphael Demapan and Natividad C. Sablan (Pat), Fransisco and Manuela A. Demapan, Ignacio and Frieda R. Demapan, Fransisco M. Palacios, Jose T. Sablan, Dolores D. and Richard Neal, Magdalena D. and Jesus Arriola

Mass is being offered at 6pm followed by the Rosary and will end on June 03, 2010. Last respects and viewing will be held at the San Vicente Church on Friday, June 04, 2010 beginning at 7:30 a.m. The Mass of Christian burial will follow at 10:00 a.m. and funeral services will take place at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated!

Thank you yan Si Yuus Maase ginen I asaguana as Ramon DLG. Demapan I famaguona, yan I familia.

Ferguson: Access offer began as way to help friend

CHICAGO (AP)—An apologetic Sarah Ferguson told Oprah Winfrey that even though she is in deep financial debt, her offer to sell access to her former husband, Prince Andrew, for $724,000 began as an effort to raise money for a friend.

The Duchess of York said in an interview that aired Tuesday on The Oprah Winfrey Show that she only asked for so much money after the undercover journalist posing as a businessman gave her $40,000 for a friend, whom she would not identify.

"I just took a long shot ... I think I just went, 'Well, if you're going for 40 (thousand dollars), well, OK, if you want to do business in the future,'" she said, trying to explain, before, admitting that she didn't know what she was thinking.

Still, she went ahead after being told the man might invest in her children's books, videos and other projects as well as assist her with what she described as her own "very serious financial debt."

AP

In this photo taken May 28, 2010 in Los Angeles, Sarah Furguson tells Opray Winfrey in an interview that she initially was trying to get money for a friend when she was caught on video offering access to her former husband, Prince Andrew, for $724,000.

Ferguson would not elaborate on how much money she owes but said she is considering filing for bankruptcy.

She also would not confirm a report Winfrey said she'd seen that says she receives $20,000 a year in her divorce settlement, saying that she is prohibited from discussing it because of a confidentiality agreement she signed. But she also suggested that she took less money than she could have because she wanted to remain friends with Queen Elizabeth, whom she referred to as "the boss."

At times, Winfrey seemed confused by Ferguson's answers, wondering, for example, why someone in her position did not simply ask her ex-husband or the Queen of England for $40,000.

"I am divorced from the royal family and I would never dream of doing that," she said.

Ferguson repeatedly used phrases such as "spiraling out of control," to explain her offer of access to Andrew. She said she had been drinking but denied being drunk and said she was "not in my right place."

She even told Winfrey that she went ahead with the agreement with the "businessman" despite her suspicion that he was, in fact, an undercover journalist.

The offer to sell access was caught on video, which the tabloid News of the World posted its website in May. Ferguson portrayed the scene in the video as the latest chapter in a deeply troubled life that she still doesn't quite understand.

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The Prince of Persia

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:40
Monday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The setting is sixth century Persia. A nefarious nobleman covets the Sands of Time, a legendary gift from the gods that allows its possessor to turn back time. Whoever owns the Sands of Time has the power to rule the world, and this villainous lord would use that power to enslave all of humanity. The only person capable of defeating this tyrant and saving the world is Dastan a youthful prince.

Sex And The City 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
The fun, the fashion, the friendship: "Sex and the City 2" brings is all back and more as Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda take another bite out of the The Big Apple—and beyond—carrying on with their busy lives and loves in a sequel that truly sparkles.

★ ★ ★

Shrek: The Final Chapter

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:30	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
The wisecracking green-tinged ogre returns in Shrek Forever After, the newest installment in the successful DreamWorks Animation series. This will be the first time that the franchise will be presented in the IMAX format in addition to a normal big-screen rollout.

MacGruber

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25	9:35
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Will Forte, Ryan Phillippe
Comedy • Rated R

Robin Hood

Friday		4:25	7:10	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:25	7:10	

Russel Crowe, Cate Blanchett
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Letters to Juliet

Friday		4:05	7:20	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:20	9:45
Monday	1:30	4:05	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:20	

Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan
Comedy, Romance • Rated PG

Iron Man 2

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:20	4:15	7:15	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action • Rated PG 13

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Prosecutor: Agreement reached in Sheen case

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Charlie Sheen has reached an agreement with authorities in Colorado over domestic violence allegations involving his wife, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

The agreement was confirmed by Chief Deputy District Attorney Arnold Mordkin, who declined to disclose details.

Brooke Mueller Sheen's lawyer, Yale Galanter, also confirmed a plea agreement but refused to say what the terms were because "a deal is not a deal until the judge approves it."

"There has definitely been a deal reached," said Galanter. "Brooke is totally satisfied with the deal but if she had her druthers, the case would have been dismissed."

Sheen pleaded not guilty to menacing, criminal mischief and assault charges stemming from an argument with his wife on Christmas Day at an Aspen home where they were on vacation. The most serious charge is menacing, a felony that carries a maximum three-year prison sentence.

Sheen's attorney Richard Cummins did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment.

Sheen

Sheen is scheduled to be in court Monday for a disposition hearing. His trial had been scheduled for July 21.

Cummins had sought to throw out statements that the "Two and a Half Men" actor made to police investigating the case. He argued that an officer questioned Sheen in the basement of a house without advising him of his right to remain silent.

Charlie Sheen denied threatening or hitting his wife but told police that he broke two pairs of her eyeglasses in front of her.

A police officer's arrest affidavit quoted Brooke Sheen as saying the actor pinned her on a bed while holding a knife to her throat and making a threat. In an audio recording of a 911 call, a woman who identifies herself as Brooke tells the dispatcher, "I thought I was gonna die for one hour."

Since the incident occurred at Christmas, both Sheens have completed alcohol rehab programs and Galanter said, "They have been sober for months and months."

As for the status of the Sheen marriage, Galanter said, "They're working at it."

Ted Koppel's son, 40, found dead in NYC apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—A son of former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel was found dead in an apartment after a day of bar hopping with a man he'd just met, a law enforcement official said Tuesday.

A drunken Andrew Koppel, 40, had been placed in a back bedroom of the Manhattan apartment to sleep it off and apparently had been dead at least four hours before anyone realized, said Belinda Caban, who lives in the apartment.

He was declared dead around 1:30 a.m. Monday, New York Police Department Detective John Sweeney said. The cause of his death hadn't been determined, but there was no evidence indicating a crime, police said.

Ted Koppel is the former longtime anchor of the ABC News show "Nightline." Andrew Koppel was one of his four children.

Ted Koppel and his wife, Grace Anne Dorney Koppel, issued a brief statement through a representative Tuesday: "Our son, Andrew, was a brilliant, caring man, whose loss we will mourn for the rest of our lives."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an acquaintance of Ted Koppel, on Tuesday offered his condolences to the family.

"It's very sad," Bloomberg said. "I know Ted casually, and I don't know how anybody deals with losing a child."

Andrew Koppel, who lived in Queens, had been drinking heavily during the day with Russell Wimberly, whom he met at a bar, the law enforcement official said. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation into the death wasn't completed.

Koppel started drinking at Smith's Bar and Restaurant in Manhattan and went to several other locations with Wimberly, the official said, before winding up at the Washington Heights neighborhood apartment owned by Caban, Wimberly's friend.

Caban said Tuesday that she had never seen Koppel before and didn't realize he was related to the news anchor, who left the network in 2005. She said Wimberly arrived at her apartment holding up Koppel, who was visibly drunk.

"I told him to sit him down, and he was flopped down in the chair. He kept flopping on my chair," she said. "I said, 'Bring him to the room. Let him wear it off. Let him go into the room and lay down and wear it off.'"

Caban said she and Wimberly spoke for hours and he went in to check on Koppel and said he was snoring and had a pulse. After six hours, she told Wimberly it was time to go and for him to take Koppel home. She said when they went to the bedroom to rouse Koppel, he wasn't moving.

"He went to pick him up and he flopped down, and I said something is wrong with him," she said. "Tried to sit him up. He was pale. I said, 'This man is dead. Something is wrong with him. This man must be dead.'"

She said they called 911 and emergency workers estimated Koppel had been dead about four hours.

Dunst reprises her role as witness in NYC trial

NEW YORK (AP)—It was witness stand, the sequel, for Kirsten Dunst.

The "Spider-Man" star reprised her role Tuesday as a star witness against a mechanic being tried—for the second time—on charges of helping steal her designer purse from a Manhattan hotel suite during a 2007 movie shoot.

Wearing a demure, loose black dress and a sometimes weary expression, the actress gave jurors a clipped, subdued account of returning from filming to find her $2,000 Balenciaga handbag gone from a SoHo Grand Hotel penthouse suite.

Her assistant's bag and co-star Simon Pegg's cell phone and other possessions also were taken from the room, which was being used as an actors' lounge while the 2008 comedy "How to Lose Friends & Alienate People" was shot downstairs.

"All our belongings were gone. I thought that my assistant had taken them and put them somewhere else, but everything was gone," Dunst testified. Inside the bag were her wallet, credit and other cards, vintage Ray-Ban Wayfarer sunglasses and $2,000 in cash, she said.

Besides calling hotel security staffers and police, "We even went outside to look for our bags, like maybe it was dumped in a Dumpster," she added.

AP

Actress Kirsten Dunst exits Manhattan criminal court in New York, Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The mechanic, James Jimenez, was convicted last fall of trespassing, but jurors deadlocked on a more serious burglary charge. He's being retried on that charge. Defense lawyer Robert Parker said Jimenez, 36, just tagged along with a co-defendant he believed had permission to be there.

Dunst, 28, played her part in the real-life court drama Tuesday in a noticeably more somber, matter-of-fact manner than she did at Jimenez' first trial in September, when she greeted judge and jurors with a chipper "Hi!"

She rebuffed Parker's suggestion of a party atmosphere surrounding the overnight shoot on Aug. 8 and Aug. 9, 2007, which concluded her filming obligations for the movie.

Parker has noted that co-defendant Jarrod Beinerman has a drug history, including pleading guilty in the 1990s to playing a part in a drug-dealing ring. Beinerman wasn't charged with any drug-related offenses in the SoHo Grand episode; he pleaded guilty in 2008 to attempted burglary and was sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison. His lawyer, Mitchell Elman, declined to comment Tuesday on the Jimenez case.

Dunst's assistant, Liat Baruch, testified last week that she had a small amount of marijuana in her own bag and was planning to smoke it after the shoot. But she and Dunst testified that Dunst knew nothing of that, and Dunst said she doesn't smoke the drug.

"We wrapped at 5:30 in the morning and found our bags were stolen, so we went home," having celebrated with nothing more decadent than a takeout dinner order from the posh sushi restaurant Nobu, the actress said.

Her bag, wallet and cards were eventually returned to her manager's office, but she never recovered the cash and sunglasses, she said.

Palin biographer: I didn't move next door to spy

WASILLA, Alaska (AP)—A writer working on a book about former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says he moved to her hometown to talk to her longtime acquaintances, not to spy on the family.

Joe McGinniss said Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show that the price was right on the house next door to the Palins. He says he needs to be in Wasilla to do his work.

Palin posted on Facebook last week that she wondered what McGinniss would gather "while overlooking Piper's bedroom, my little garden, and the family's swimming hole?"

McGinniss called Palin's comments "ugly innuendo" and "revolting."

An editorial posted Saturday by Palin's hometown newspaper implied that the former governor or neighbors could shoot McGinniss if they felt their life or property were threatened.

Feds meet with film director Cameron on oil spill

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Top kill" didn't stop the Gulf oil spill. How about something "titanic"?

Federal officials are hoping film director James Cameron can help them come up with ideas on how to stop the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The "Avatar" and "Titanic" director was among a group of scientists and other experts who met Tuesday with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies for a brainstorming session on stopping the massive oil leak.

The Canadian-born Cameron is considered an expert on underwater filming and remote vehicle technologies. "Avatar" and "Titanic" are the two highest-grossing films of all time.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Hawaii's Maui Film Festival to honor Zac Efron

WAILEA, Hawaii (AP)—Teen heartthrob Zac Efron will be honored by the Maui Film Festival in Hawaii later this month with its Shining Star Award. The star of "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" and "17 Again" will accept it on June 16, the festival's opening night. Festival director Barry Rivers says the 22-year-old actor "is an exemplary shining star." Rivers says this year's mantra is "Trust the Future," and Efron is an actor with an extraordinary career behind him and an even more brilliant one ahead of him.

Gary Coleman's family plans weekend Utah funeral

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—An agent for Gary Coleman says the late actor's family is planning a memorial service but hasn't decided whether it would be private or public. Shielia Erickson says the family hopes to hold the service Friday, Saturday or Sunday in Salt Lake City. Erickson says it has not been decided whether the service will be open to the public for fans of the former TV star. Coleman died last Friday of a brain hemorrhage after being taken off life support at a Provo hospital. He was 42. Santaquin Police Chief Dennis Howard says authorities responded to Coleman's home last Wednesday on a medical call. He says Coleman had a dialysis treatment that day. Coleman starred in the sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes" as the pint-sized Arnold Jackson in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Thieves swipe 'Tonight Show' band's wardrobe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say thieves have taken at least $5,600 worth of clothing from "The Tonight Show" band. Lt. Bob Binder says a wardrobe employee for the show reported Monday that dozens of jackets, shirts and shoes were taken from a rented storage space where fittings were held. Police say the 35 pairs of shoes alone were worth about $2,000. Binder says the items were likely taken on multiple occasions last month. He says band members are still itemizing the wardrobe to see what else was taken. There were no signs of forced entry, no property damage and no suspects.

Spike TV celebrating 'Goodfellas' anniversary

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike TV is bringing together Robert De Niro and Ray Liotta to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the mob classic "Goodfellas." The two stars will be at Spike's fourth annual "Guy's Choice" awards, to be televised June 20. Event producer Casey Patterson says "Goodfellas" is considered a touchstone for Spike's target audience of 18- to 34-year-old men. Spike is still working on getting cast member Joe Pesci to attend. Filmmaker Martin Scorcese (skor-SEH'-zee) will be in Europe and won't be at the show's taping in Culver City, Calif., on Saturday. Patterson calls the film "a classic story, shot in a way that makes it really, really sexy."

Good marriage undermined by couple's bad sex life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Alana," and I have been married for 14 years. In many ways our marriage is good, but our sex life is horrible. In my opinion, it has never been good. As time passes, I feel more and more anger toward her. Alana is attractive and physically fit; I don't understand her lack of desire. When the subject of sex comes up, it makes us both clam up.

I have been thinking of leaving her. We have become more like best friends than husband and wife. Our two boys would be crushed if we split. I have not—and would never consider—an affair. What do you think about this?

TROUBLED HUSBAND IN MISSOURI

DEAR TROUBLED: Good sex is all about open communication. If the subject makes you and your wife both clam up, it's no wonder your sex life has faltered.

Before you and Alana can get on the same wavelength, you need to understand how each of you defines a good sex life. The reason sex therapy has become a medical specialty is that so many couples have the same problems you're experiencing. Before deciding to call it quits, ask your doctor for a referral to a sex therapist.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am going to be a sophomore in college next year. I played basketball in high school and was offered a full scholarship to play at the college I attend now. I played ball during my freshman year, and I do not want to do it again next year. My heart is no longer in it.

My biggest fear is letting my parents down. I know having my education paid for has helped them out, but don't I have a right to do what makes me happy? Please help me come up with a way to convince them that I'm making the right decision.

DROPPING THE BALL IN IOWA

DEAR DROPPING THE BALL: Before you make a final decision, you need to know what penalties there may be for dropping your athletic scholarship. You should also check to find out what academic scholarships or loan programs you might qualify for, and if there are any part-time jobs available in case your parents are unable to foot the entire bill for your education. You should also keep in mind that, in a sense, your athletic scholarship is a job that's getting you through college, and it doesn't have to be your heart's desire to be a means to an end.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to thank the schoolteachers, librarians and counselors who were kind to me when I was an at-risk child.

My mother was mentally ill, my father was absent, and the school was my haven. I often wish I could tell some of those adults who helped me along the way that I did make it, that I turned out OK, and that I'm so grateful for the little and big ways they intervened in my life.

To all who serve children: Please know that even very small kindnesses give hope and strength to the child who doesn't receive them elsewhere.

TURNED OUT OK THANKS TO YOU

DEAR TURNED OUT OK: You have written a beautiful letter, one that could have been written by many students to the educators and other adults who, by their acts of kindness, made a positive difference in their lives. If we think back, I suspect that most of us have had at least one. I know I have, and I, too, am grateful to them.

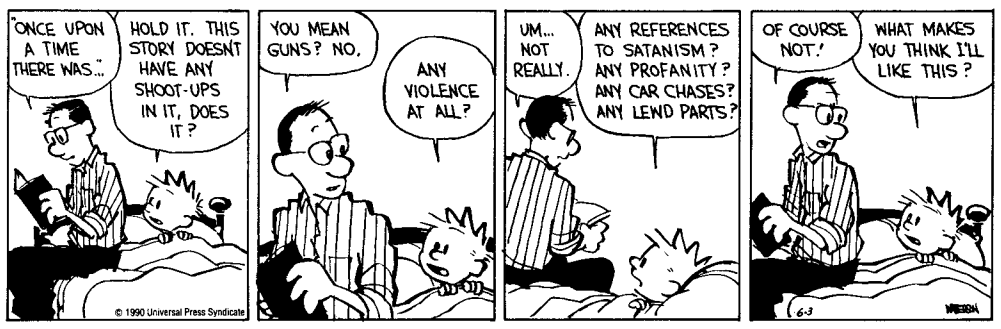
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

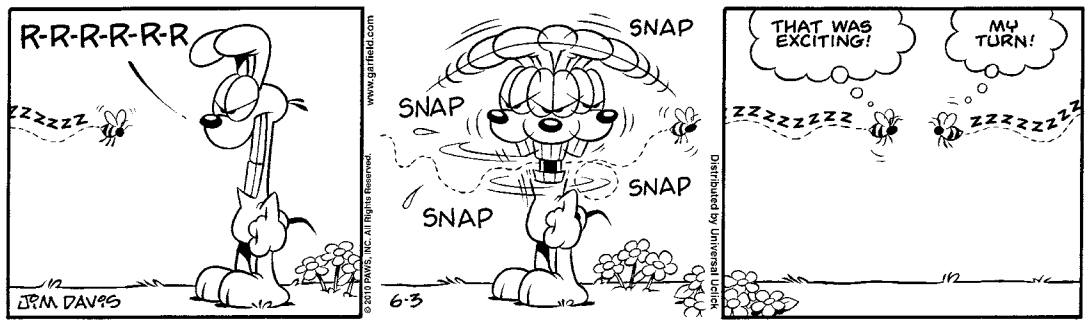
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS..."
HOLD IT. THIS STORY DOESN'T HAVE ANY SHOOT-UPS IN IT, DOES IT?
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
YOU MEAN GUNS? NO.
ANY VIOLENCE AT ALL?
UM... NOT REALLY.
ANY REFERENCES TO SATANISM? ANY PROFANITY? ANY CAR CHASES? ANY LEWD PARTS?
OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL LIKE THIS?
6-3

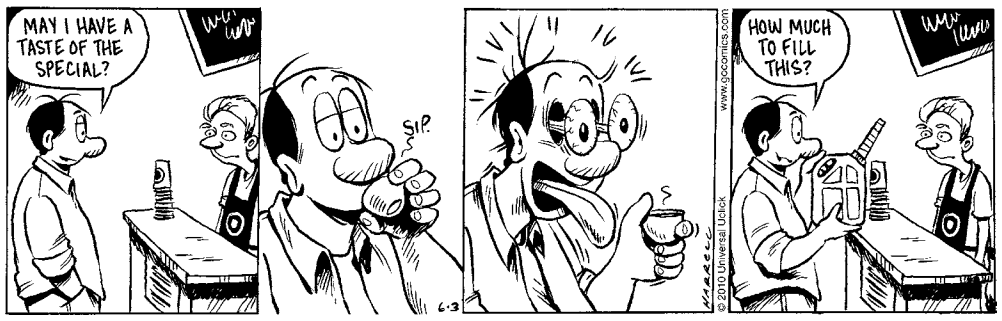
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



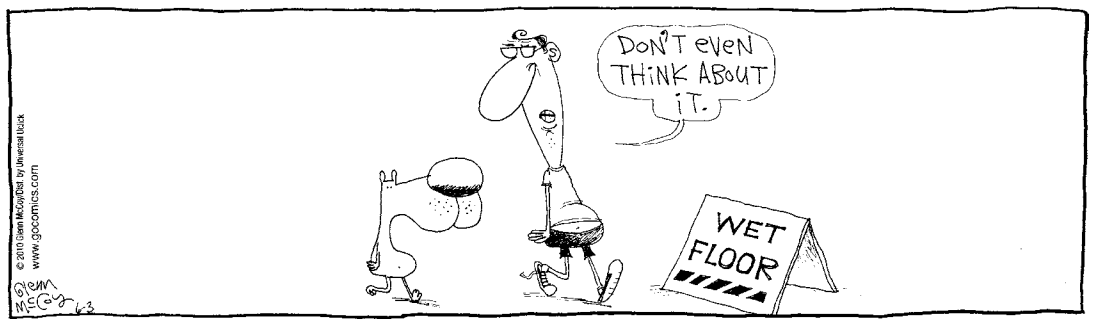
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hearts or darts
5 Cistern
8 Unwanted e-mail
12 Grad
13 Eggs
14 Poi base
15 Speech impediment
16 Symbol of intrigue
17 Bullets and such
18 Not out on the town
20 Seniors' org.
22 "Greed is good" movie
26 Expand laterally
29 Lemieux milieu
30 Uncultured
31 Farmer, at times
32 Important numero
33 Actress Gilpin
34 $ dispenser
35 Mimic
36 Failed to
37 Sinclair Lewis novel
40 Gag
41 Nude
45 Asian nation
47 Wire measure
49 Something about Mary?
50 Rue the run
51 Opposite of post-
52 Tend texts
53 Repair
54 Scull tool
55 Decorates Easter eggs

DOWN

1 Festive
2 Settled down
3 Dog-sledder's command
4 Authorize
5 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
6 Rd.
7 Hot sauce
8 Harrison cohort
9 Molly-coddled
10 Branch
11 Remark from Bossy
19 Fellow
21 Chowed down
23 Eye cosmetic
24 Deserve
25 Foolish one
26 "Pow!"
27 Tiny amount
28 Narrow-necked bottle
32 Fast, as music
33 Threw
35 Request
36 Lair
38 Got snoopy
39 Swiss mathematician
42 Word shouted by Jerry Lewis mimics
43 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
44 Specks
45 Felon's flight
46 Expert
48 401(k) alternative

Solution time: 25 mins.

			H	E	R			O	F	T		
	N	A	P	E			A	D	L	I	B	
R	E	S	I	N			S	O	O	N	E	R
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			D	D	T			A	Y	E		

Yesterday's answer 6-3

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
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31				■	32			■	33			
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37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anderson Cooper, 43; Deniece Williams, 60; Suzi Quatro, 60; Tony Curtis, 85

Happy Birthday: Not everyone will be upfront and honest with you this year. Base your decisions on fact, not fiction. Your diligence and attentive way of handling others will bring you the rewards you deserve and opportunities to prosper and get ahead. Embrace whatever comes your way with optimism and positive energy and you will excel. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 19, 28, 36, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Consider the possibilities and do what has to be done to expand an idea or develop a skill to achieve your goals. Talk to someone with experience but don't let anyone bully you into something you aren't sure of. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll have lots of get up and go but it can quickly turn to anxiety if you don't have a good outlet. Expect someone to try to burden you with added responsibilities. Romance is looking quite desirable. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make things happen your way if you are somewhat accommodating. All you have to do is be pleasant, while you slip in your own touch and expertise. By the time anyone realizes, you will already have made your point by the success. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Rely on your memory and your past experience in order to advance. An associate will entice you into getting involved in a project with the potential to bring you greater income. A goal you set many years ago can now be achieved. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't sit back when there is so much to do. Put everything you've got into pursuing something you enjoy doing and for which you have a gift. You can expect to receive cash or a gift from an unusual source. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make a contribution to something you believe in. You will feel good about what you do and will drum up some additional business along the way. Adding a new dimension to a service you offer will allow you to earn more money. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look beyond to find out exactly what's going on. If you are feeling unsure about a relationship, ask questions that will shed some light on where you stand and what you should be doing to make matters better. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way, no matter how big or small. Focusing on the little things will not give you a true evaluation of the possibilities. Be responsible and take control. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your thoughts to yourself and see what everyone else is thinking or planning. You are likely to meet with opposition if your plans sound extravagant or impossible. You will have to set a strict budget. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do what you know will work and don't deviate from your original plans, regardless of what others want you to do. Past experience will lead you in a positive direction. In the end, you will gain respect and recognition for your courage and ability to get things done. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let a stubborn attitude be your downfall. Jealousy is a waste of time. Being honest about the way you feel and recognizing the way others feel will be vital to making the right decision. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do your own thing and follow your heart. Once you display what you have to offer, you will get a better response. If you aren't satisfied with your current situation, get to the root of your problem so you can find a way to turn things around. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, sensitive, conscientious and caring. You are compassionate and articulate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	3		1			
			4			2		
7		2					5	
6	2			9				4
1				5			2	7
	5					3		6
		8			3			
			8		7	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	6	1	2	3	5	4	9
3	2	5	8	9	4	6	7	1
1	9	4	6	7	5	8	3	2
2	5	3	9	6	8	4	1	7
9	6	1	4	5	7	3	2	8
8	4	7	3	1	2	9	5	6
6	3	8	7	4	1	2	9	5
4	1	2	5	8	9	7	6	3
5	7	9	2	3	6	1	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM **Solution: 7 letters**

N	O	I	S	N	A	P	X	E	G	A	N	G	I	S
O	O	B	S	D	E	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	T	C
I	R	I	F	P	D	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	O	O
T	G	Y	T	I	U	N	I	T	N	O	C	U	L	N
A	A	T	R	A	N	R	A	R	S	M	R	O	L	S
C	N	I	A	K	T	A	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	T
I	I	C	F	C	N	R	N	T	E	P	G	E	E	R
F	Z	I	F	A	I	O	O	C	S	N	N	L	K	U
I	A	L	I	R	R	R	C	P	I	I	I	S	I	C
S	T	B	C	T	I	V	E	K	S	N	Ⓖ	T	P	T
S	I	U	H	S	O	E	R	U	K	Ⓝ	G	E	N	I
A	O	P	T	L	D	A	B	E	Ⓞ	T	A	E	R	O
L	N	S	U	D	M	G	D	Ⓛ	A	R	U	R	U	N
C	O	M	P	L	I	A	N	C	E	I	E	T	T	S
D	E	N	I	A	T	N	I	A	M	P	T	S	E	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Photos

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CITY TRUST BANK, fka MARIANAS BANK LTD., Plaintiff, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1054

-v-

JUAN R. SABLAN and ANGELINE F. SABLAN, Defendants.

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Real property situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot E.A. 839 NEW-6-3, containing an area of 1,329 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. E.A. 839 New.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 11, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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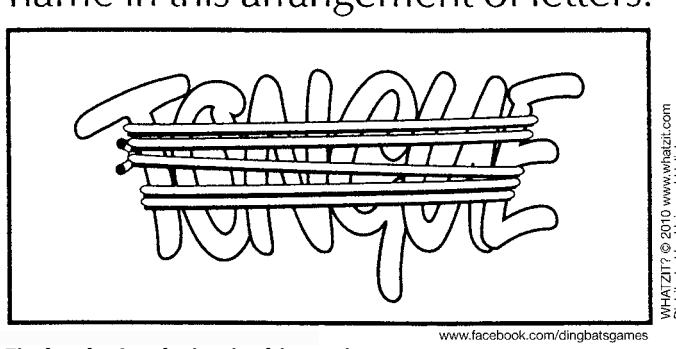

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Federer stunned by Soderling at French Open

PARIS (AP)—His French Open reign suddenly over, his record streak of 23 consecutive Grand Slam semifinals done, too, Roger Federer paused briefly as he trudged off court at dusk, acknowledging the fans' applause with a polite smile and a quick wave.

He's certainly not used to bidding adieu so soon.

Bothered by the pouring rain and his big-hitting foe, the top-seeded Federer wasted a lead and plenty of openings Tuesday, succumbing to No. 5 Robin Soderling of Sweden 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 in the quarterfinals at Roland Garros. If Soderling's name sounds familiar, it's because he stunned four-time champion Rafael Nadal in the French Open's fourth round last year, before losing to Federer in the final.

For the first time in six years, the men's semifinals at a major tennis tournament will not involve 16-time Grand Slam champion Federer.

"They all come to an end at some stage. You hope they don't happen, but they do. It was a great run," Federer said, before injecting a little humor by adding with a wry smile: "Now I've got the quarterfinal streak going, I guess."

Look at it this way: Federer had won 117 matches in a row—117!—in the first five rounds at majors, dating to a loss to Gustavo Kuerten in the third round at the French Open on May 29, 2004 (Federer advanced twice when opponents withdrew).

"I mean, I respect everyone, but I'm always—how do you say?—I'm honest enough to myself that I know I can win them all," said Federer, who would cede his No. 1 ranking if Nadal wins the title.

Among the many reasons why Tuesday's result was so unexpected is that Federer was 12-0 against Soderling, having won 28 of the 30 sets they'd played.

So who, exactly, would have thought Soderling could win three sets in a single day?

Well, Soderling, for one.

"Even though I lost so many times, I always have a chance to win," said the 25-year-old Soderling, who'd never been past the third round at a Grand Slam tournament until last year's French Open. "I always believe that I can win. This is a big win, but it's not the final. Still have at least one more match to play, and I don't want to celebrate too much."

That next match will be in Friday's semifinals against No. 15 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic. Still, Soderling has every right to relish what he's already accomplished: He is the first man to beat the French Open defending champion in consecutive years since another Swede, Mats Wilander, did it in 1984-85.

Nadal, remember, was 31-0 in the French Open until losing to Soderling.

"He's obviously not afraid of the big moment—or afraid of the big guys," Wilander said about his countryman. "He's not intimidated."

Most are against Federer. Starting at Wimbledon in 2004, one tournament after that loss to Kuerten, Federer had been to the semifinals at every Grand Slam event, a run of 23; the second-longest such streak was 10, by Ivan Lendl and Rod Laver. Federer also had reached the final at 18 of the last 19 majors.

AP

Sweden's Robin Soderling returns the ball to defending champion Switzerland's Roger Federer during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Plus, while Federer might only have one French Open—he completed his career Grand Slam in Paris in 2009—that's thanks to his problems against Nadal. Dating to the start of the 2005 tournament, Federer was 0-4 against his nemesis at Roland Garros, 34-0 against everyone else.

Until Tuesday, that is.

Until Soderling got in the way, putting every last bit of his 6-foot-4, 192-pound frame into powerful forehands that were like thunderclaps, loud and frightening. Driving the ball deeply with shot after shot, Soderling rarely allowed Federer to step into the court, either to cut off angles or to rush forward for volleys. Federer made only 17 trips to the net, 13 fewer than Soderling.

And then there were those Soderling serves, lashed from on high, cutting through the thick air at 130 mph or more, contributing 14 aces and some key service winners, while setting up countless other successful points.

Federer gave Soderling credit for playing well, but also said he thought the damp conditions favored the underdog's style.

"He was able to hit consistently through the ball on the offensive and put them close to the lines," Federer said, "and that's something that was impressive."

He also knew full well that if he'd played a little better himself, he'd be preparing for another semifinal.

Instead, it will be Soderling vs. Berdych, who advanced to his first Grand Slam semifinal by beating No. 11 Mikhail Youzhny of Russia 6-3, 6-1, 6-2. In Wednesday's men's quarterfinals, Nadal meets No. 19 Nicolas Almagro of Spain, and No. 3 Novak Djokovic of Serbia faces No. 22 Jurgen Melzer of Austria.

In Tuesday's women's quarterfinals, No. 17 Francesca Schiavone gave Italy its first female semifinalist at the French Open since 1954 by knocking off No. 3 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark 6-3, 6-2. Schiavone now plays No. 5 Elena Dementieva, who defeated No. 19 Nadia Petrova 2-6, 6-2, 6-0 in an all-Russian quarterfinal.

But Federer-Soderling rendered anything else going on around the grounds Tuesday a mere afterthought.

Federer had a set point at 5-4 in the third, when there was a tremendous exchange. Federer jumped to stop an overhead smash, but Soderling flicked an over-the-shoulder backhand volley winner. Soderling then took the next two points with service winners at 139 mph and 138 mph to hold for 5-5.

With Federer serving at 30-15 in the next game, the first rain delay arrived, delaying play for 75 minutes. When action resumed, Federer went up 40-15—then proceeded to lose four points in a row, including two missed forehands and a double-fault. Armed with that break, Soderling served out that set with an ace.

"I just missed too many chances today," Federer acknowledged.

The crowd began pulling loudly for him, cheering each point he won—and jeering Soderling whenever he questioned line calls. Federer broke to go up 2-0 in the fourth set, but just when it seemed he was restoring order, just when it seemed Soderling might crack, that momentum stalled.

Federer missed three shots to help Soderling break back. Then, after another brief rain break, Federer made three unforced errors in a game to get broken again. Ahead 5-4, Soderling served out the match, then walked to the net, pounding his fist on his chest.

Asked which victory was bigger—over Nadal in 2009 or Federer in 2010—Soderling said: "It's a tough question. They're both big wins, of course."

Of course.

LeBron says Cavs have edge in free agency

CLEVELAND (AP)—One month from the start of the NBA's free agency frenzy, LeBron James said he's not close to making any decision.

However, he has handicapped his field of suitors.

The Cleveland Cavaliers lead the pack.

In his first interview since the Cavs' season ended with a shocking, second-round loss to Boston, James told CNN's Larry King that Cleveland has "an edge" to re-sign him when the greatest collection of free agents in league history hits the open market on July 1.

King, who interviewed James at the two-time MVP's home near Akron on Tuesday, asked the superstar if Cleveland has "an edge going in?"

"Absolutely," James said in a portion of the interview released by the network. "Because, you know, this city, these fans, I mean, have given me a lot in these seven years. And, you know, for me, it's comfortable. So I've got a lot of memories here. And so it does have an edge.

"It's going to be a very interesting summer and I'm looking forward to it."

Also during the interview, which will air Friday on CNN's "Larry King Live," James said he can't wait for July 1 to arrive and that he has not yet decided where he'll sign.

"I'm far from close," he was quoted as saying in a transcript posted on WEWS-TV's website in Cleveland. "July is still a month away, less than a month away. I've thought about it, but I haven't began to strategize exactly."

James also made his first comments about former Cavs coach Mike Brown, who was fired in the aftermath of Cleveland's startling loss to the Celtics. James said he was sorry to see Brown let go after five seasons.

"He was a great coach, five great years we had together and we turned a franchise that hadn't seen a lot of things in a lot of years," James said.

"But ultimately, we both, myself and Mike Brown, didn't accomplish what we wanted to, and that was (win) the NBA championship. And I think we wanted it more than anybody else.

"So it's unfortunate. I wish him the best and I think he's going to have a great coaching career."

Before sitting down with King, James had not talked any media members since the Cavs were eliminated by the Celtics, who then knocked off Orlando and will meet the Los Angeles Lakers in the finals starting Thursday.

James believes the Celtics can beat the Lakers and win their 18th NBA title.

He also plans to meet with Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and others in a star-studded summit of free agents to talk about their future plans.

"I am the ringleader," James told King.

The New York Knicks, Chicago Bulls, New Jersey Nets and Los Angeles Clippers are among a group of teams expected to make a strong push for James, who is humbled by all the attention as well as recent comments by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who wants him to sign with the Knicks, and President Barack Obama, who would like to see him step into Michael Jordan's shadow with the Bulls.

James seemed intrigued by the Clippers and the chance to play near Hollywood.

"They've got some really good players. Some really nice, solid pieces that, if they add a free agent here or a free agent there, it could be a really good team. It's a great city. But at the same time, it's not always about the city. It's about winning. If you put me and Bosh on the same team, if you put me and Dwayne Wade on the same team, a lot of teams would be much better. You know, the Cavs would be much better."

And while he'll consult with advisers, family and friends, James said the choice of his next team will up to one person.

"It's going to be me," he said. "I'm going to have to sit down and say 'where do you want to play'?

Wade insists, no free agent wish list—yet

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade is going to Chicago.

Relax, Heat fans—the trip is just to start thinking in earnest about his future.

After settling four court cases Tuesday and calling it a "huge relief" to have some of his many legal issues now settled, Wade said he finally can afford a bit of time for himself.

So on Wednesday, he'll be back home in Chicago, for both a reunion with his two young sons and to start thinking about what awaits when the NBA free agency window opens July 1.

"No question, I will be able to, even though I've still got the other things to handle," Wade told The Associated Press. "But I will be able to start focusing on my wish list, focusing on the things I want to do for my future. Even though I've still got other things to worry about, this kind of is a big burden off my shoulders. Now I'm able to go to Chicago and focus on something totally different."

Wade said he'll now start thinking of a "wish list" of players he'd like the Miami Heat to consider signing. He told the AP in April he thinks he and Cleveland's LeBron James—another likely free-agent-to-be—would play well together, and it's nearly a lock that the Heat will take a run at trying to woo James away from the Cavaliers.

Wade has spent his entire seven seasons with the Heat, who could pay him about $30 million more than any other team. He said Tuesday he hasn't called any other potential free agents yet. He will, and soon.

"I've been having to deal with a lot and do a lot," Wade told the AP. "Now, over the next week or two, I'm able to now sit down and say, 'OK, let me call this guy, let me reach out to this guy.' And I'm looking forward to that."

Tejada's error gives Yanks 3-1 win over Orioles

NEW YORK (AP)—Miguel Tejada's two-out, two-run throwing error allowed Javier Vazquez to win a stellar matchup with Brian Matusz as the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 3-1 Tuesday.

Tejada, playing his first season at third base, fielded Alex Rodriguez's sharp ground ball off reliever David Hernandez in the seventh inning, but his throw to first bounced in the dirt and Ty Wigginton couldn't stretch far enough to scoop it.

Curtis Granderson hit a solo homer in the fifth inning.

Baltimore lost its sixth in a row.

AP

Baltimore Orioles third baseman Miguel Tejada (9) throws to first to try to put out New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez in the seventh inning of a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Indians 3, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Russell Branyan and Choo Shin-soo hit home runs to lift Cleveland over Detroit.

Jake Westbrook (3-3) gave up a run on five hits and a walk over 7 2-3 innings.

Chris Perez stranded two runners in the eighth by getting Magglio Ordonez to pop up. Kerry Wood gave up an unearned run on Alex Avila's RBI single after Branyan's two-out error, letting the Tigers pull within a run before earning his third save in four chances.

Jeremy Bonderman (2-3) didn't allow a run until Branyan hit a solo home run in the fifth. Choo followed with a solo shot the next inning. Mark Grudzielanek's RBI single in the eighth gave Cleveland a two-run cushion it needed.

Royals 6, Angels 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, David DeJesus hit a two-run triple, Jose Guillen homered and reliever Robinson Tejeda escaped a jam in the sixth inning to lift Kansas City over the Los Angeles Angels.

Brian Bannister (5-3) worked into the sixth inning for his fourth straight win and the bullpen pitched 3 2-3 scoreless innings to end Kansas City's three-game losing streak. Tejeda got the two biggest outs, stopping the Angels with runners on second and third, and Joakim Soria pitched a dominating ninth for his 13th save in 15 chances.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 6

At Toronto, Sean Rodriguez hit a go-ahead, three-run double in a wild ninth inning that featured two ejections as Tampa Bay rallied to beat Toronto.

The Blue Jays led 5-3 to begin the inning, but Carl Crawford drew a one-out walk and stole second. He was nearly picked off second, but ended up at third after Gregg's throwing error sent the ball into center field.

Evan Longoria walked to put runners on the corners for Carlos Pena, who struck out looking after he was denied a timeout call by home plate umpire Angel Hernandez.

Rays manager Joe Maddon came out to argue and was ejected by Hernandez.

Red Sox 9, Athletics 4

At Boston, Victor Martinez had five hits, including a career-high four doubles as Boston rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Oakland.

John Lackey (6-3) spotted the A's a 4-0 lead before Adrian Beltre hit a three-run homer in the fifth. In the sixth, Bill Hall reached on a leadoff walk and then Darnell McDonald and Marco Scutaro both tried to sacrifice bunt but wound up walking as well.

Hall scored to tie it on Dustin Pedroia's double-play grounder, then Martinez's line drive one-hopped into the stands to make it 5-4. The Red Sox added a run in the seventh and three in the eighth.

Rangers 9, White Sox 6

At Chicago, Ian Kinsler had two hits and drove in three runs, and Craig Gentry hit a two-run single to lead Texas to a comeback victory over Chicago.

Josh Hamilton and David Murphy each had three hits for the Rangers, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Rangers starter Rich Harden (3-1) hung around long enough to get the victory, allowing four runs on seven hits. He struck out one and allowed three walks.

White Sox starter Mark Buehrle (3-6) couldn't hold on to an early 4-0 lead. Buehrle was tagged for four runs on four hits in the sixth inning.

Mariners 7, Twins 1

At Seattle, Jose Lopez homered and drove in three runs, and Chone Figgins had two hits including an RBI double in Seattle's four-run fourth as the Mariners downed Minnesota.

Jason Vargas (4-2) ended a string of three consecutive no-decisions while stopping Seattle's losing streak at three games.

He allowed Justin Morneau's solo home run on a 3-0 gift pitch in the third—and just five other hits in seven innings.

Minnesota's winning streak ended at a season high-tying five games.

Braves 7, Phillies 3

At Atlanta, Troy Glaus stayed hit a three-run homer and Tim Hudson pitched six strong innings around a rain delay as the Atlanta Braves extended their lead in the National League East with a victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Braves moved to 1 1/2 games ahead of two-time reigning NL champion Philadelphia with their 17th win in the last 21 games, including seven in a row. They haven't been in first this late in the season since 2005, the last of their record 14 straight division titles.

Philadelphia is heading in the opposite direction. The Phillies have lost eight of 10 and are really struggling at the plate, though Ryan Howard's two-run homer prevented them from being shut out for the sixth time in the last 10 games.

Reds 9, Cardinals 8

At St. Louis, Scott Rolen homered twice as Cincinnati overcame a rough outing by Johnny Cueto to beat St. Louis.

Jonny Gomes' RBI single and Drew Stubbs' go-ahead sacrifice fly off Blake Hawksworth put the Reds ahead to stay in the seventh inning after Brendan Ryan's two-run double put the Cardinals ahead 8-7 the inning before.

Joey Votto homered and had four hits, showing no rust from a six-game absence due to a sore neck, and helped the Reds rally after blowing a four-run lead to reclaim first place in the NL Central.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

At Pittsburgh, Neil Walker hit his first major league home run to put the Pirates ahead in the eighth as Pittsburgh beat the Chicago Cubs for the seventh time this season.

Walker, who grew up in Pittsburgh's suburbs and was the Pirates' first-round draft choice in 2004, hit a pitch from Ted Lilly (1-5) into the seats in the deepest part of the ballpark in left-center with Andrew McCutchen on and one out.

Joel Hanrahan (2-1) pitched a perfect top of the eighth and Octavio Dotel worked the ninth for his 12th save in 14 opportunities.

Marlins 6, Brewers 4

At Miami, Jorge Cantu hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning as Florida became the latest team to rough up Trevor Hoffman, in a win over Milwaukee.

Hoffman, baseball's career saves leader, took over with the score 3-all. Chris Coghlan led off with a double and scored on Cantu's hit, and Ronny Paulino added a two-run single.

Hoffman allowed three runs in one inning, leaving the struggling closer with an 11.65 ERA.

Astros 8, Nationals 7

At Houston, Lance Berkman singled in two runs with two out in the ninth against NL saves leader Matt Capps as Houston answered Washington's late rally with one of their own.

The Nationals grabbed a 7-6 lead with a two-run rally against Houston closer Matt Lidstrom on RBI singles from Roger Bernadina and Ian Desmond.

But Pedro Feliz reached on Ryan Zimmerman's fielding error to start Houston's ninth. He was sacrificed to second by Kevin Cash and pinch hitter Cory Sullivan's double off the wall in left field put runners on second and third.

Capps (0-2) intentionally walked Michael Bourn to load the bases, but after getting a second out, Berkman drove the ball to left to win it. He finished with five RBIs.

Mets 4, Padres 2

At San Diego, David Wright and Ike Davis homered to lead the New York Mets to a win over San Diego.

Mike Pelfrey (8-1) won his fourth straight start by holding San Diego to one run and four hits in eight innings while striking out eight and walking two. On Monday night, the Padres had 19 hits in an 18-6 victory.

Wright's homer to left-center leading off the fifth was one of his three hits. He also had an RBI single in the first off Wade LeBlanc (2-4). Davis hit a two-run shot to straightaway center with two outs in the seventh off Edward Mujica.

Dodgers 1, Diamondbacks 0, 10 innings

At Los Angeles, Matt Kemp greeted reliever Juan Gutierrez with a leadoff home run in the 10th inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a victory over Arizona.

Kemp worked the count to 2-2 against Gutierrez (0-5) before driving his 11th homer into the left field pavilion. It was the 12th consecutive game in which the Diamondbacks' staff had given up a home run.

Rockies 2, Giants 1, 11 innings

At San Francisco, Clint Barmes hit a two-out RBI double in the 11th inning as Colorado won its season-high fourth straight road game by beating San Francisco.

The Rockies had runners thrown out at the plate in the ninth and 10th innings before finally breaking through in the 11th.

A slimmer Roethlisberger back in Steelers practice

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A slimmed-down Ben Roethlisberger whistled practice passes to his receivers for the first time in five weeks, and a teammate didn't need to watch video tape to know what he'd just seen.

"He's been working hard at home," defensive end Brett Keisel said. "He wants to be great this year. So, hopefully, he will."

Even if considerable repair work needs to be done, on the field and off it.

The two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback didn't talk to reporters after practicing Tuesday for the first time since drawing a six-game suspension April 21 for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

The penalty resulted from a Georgia college student's allegation that Roethlisberger sexually assaulted her in a nightclub, and though he does not face criminal charges in the case, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said the quarterback's drinking and carousing failed to meet the league's expectations for player behavior.

Roethlisberger took part in voluntary practices April 19 and 20, but was barred from working out again until he underwent a league-ordered behavioral evaluation and was cleared by Goodell to resume team activities. The commissioner still hasn't decided if Roethlisberger's suspension will be reduced to four games.

The consensus among Roethlisberger's teammates: Good to have him back, now let's move on—even if they realize that can't possibly happen for months.

"We're all trying to get over this. I think we're all already over this, we want to get ready for the season," said lineman Willie Colon, the only Steelers teammate known to have been with Roethlisberger the night of the incident in Georgia back in early March. "We've got a lot of people we got to knock down. Our focus is being world champs again, and that's where we're all headed to."

Roethlisberger, wearing a white No. 7 jersey atop a yellow practice shirt, took all the snaps with the starters during the 90-minute practice, partly because Byron Leftwich had a previously scheduled commitment and missed the voluntary practice. Coach Mike Tomlin also departed early for the same reason and didn't answer questions.

Budweiser caging meeting today

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands is calling on representatives of teams participating in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League to attend a technical meeting today.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Schedule, rules and regulation and other details of the annual caging will be discussed at the meeting.

Entrance fee is $600, which include team uniforms.

The league will kick off on June 11.

Only the first 10 teams to complete the requirements will be allowed to compete in the CNMI's premier cage league. Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 12 players in their roster.

Expected to join this year's Budweiser caging is the CNMI National Team, which will use the league to prepare for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Docomo Pacific took the championship in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after outlasting Ol'Aces in the title match, 88-80, at the Garapan Basketball Court. Docomo had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals and clinched the title early with a win in Game 1.

For more information about this year's Budweiser caging, contact Gabriel White at 234-6548 or via email: awaawaa@hotmail.com. ***(BANMI)***

PATRIOTS

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cho. Jeremy Lizama scored A.J. with a two-RBI double before scoring himself off an error.

After the nightmare inning, Jonathon Rangamar drew a lead off walk and scored off an error and Cody Kaipat hit an RBI double that brought in Rayvan Uchau to give the Fielders a couple of runs back.

In the bottom half of the fourth, 2010 Junior Division batting champ, A.J. Lizama knocked in R.J. Falig who led off with a walk for the Ol'Aces.

Down 15-3 to start the fifth, the Fielders needed two runs to keep the game going, but only managed one from an RBI single by Rangamar.

Notables include winning pitcher A.J. Lizama and Franklin Camacho. Lizama allowed two earned runs in five innings with seven strikeouts, five hits, and four walks; Camacho batted 2-for-2 with five RBIs, two runs, and a hit by pitch; T.J. Sablan batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs and a run; Jeremy Lizama batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs.

Patriots 5, Red Sox 3

Although they prevented the booming offensive fireworks from the notorious Patriots, the Red Sox struggled at the plate during last Monday's the first semifinal showdown, being forced into four 1-2-3 innings at the plate.

After the visiting Sox went 1-2-3 to start the game, the Patriots put their first two runs on the board.

With one out, Bret Halstead reached and scored off errors and Jeremy Rabauliman reached with a single and later stole home.

The Sox went 1-2-3 again to start the second and the Pats brought two more runs to the plate.

Kent Kalen drew a walk and scored off a passed ball, and a fielder's choice by Jonathon Villagomez drove in Raymond Saralu, who led off the inning with a single.

Then the Red Sox went 1-2-3 for the third time in a row as the Patriots added another run to their lead from a sac-fly by Henry Rabauliman that scored Jeremy.

Starting the fourth at the top of their order, the Red Sox finally managed some base runners.

An error and two singles loaded up the bases that set up a one-out, two-RBI single by Jonathon Cabrera that scored Kyle Hocog and Thomas Reyes. Kead runner Joseph Borja then came to the plate after an errant throw by the catcher.

The Patriots drew a blank in the bottom half and the score was set at 5-3, Patriots after four innings.

The Sox loaded the bases in the top half of the fifth, but the Patriots buckled down and made a big defensive stand that left all runners stranded.

In the bottom half, the Pats left a runner at second and both teams went 1-2-3 in the sixth.

At the start of the seventh, the Sox needed two runs to keep their hopes alive, but fell short of the goal.

Powerhouse Patriots were pretty well contained at the plate by the Sox's stingy defense, but the consistent pitching, in conjunction with the Pat's critical stand out on the field in the bottom of the fifth inning, made the difference in this one.

Notables include winning pitcher Christian Mizer and star slugger Jeremy Rabauliman. Mizer allowed one earned run in five innings with eight strikeouts, five hits, and a walk and Rabauliman batted 3-for-3 with two runs and four stolen bases.

FALCONS

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ended up going 1-2-3 in the third.

In the top of the fourth, Ionis Rasa led off for the Fielders with a single and scored off an error to tie the game at 1-1, and in the bottom half the Falcons left a runner stranded at third base.

Then in the top of the fifth, the Fielders took a one-run lead from a sacrifice fly by Juan Maratita that scored Zack Tudela, who reached off an error; the Falcons went 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

In the top of the sixth, Rasa led off with a single, but the next three batters were sat down and the Fielders came up empty.

In the bottom of the sixth, Josh Jones helped his own cause and delivered a two-RBI double for the lead that brought in Ton Aldan and Rogolofoi who led off the inning with a walk and a base hit.

Then in the top of the last inning, a grounder to the pitcher followed by two strikeouts forced the Fielders to go 1-2-3 and the Falcons, by a score of 3-2, went home with the big trophy.

During the awards ceremony after the game, Josh Jones was selected as the most valuable player of the championship. Jones allowed zero earned runs in all seven innings on the mound with 14 strikeouts, three hits, and zero walks. Jones also knocked in all the runs batting 2-for-3 with three RBIs. The guy simply was the best player on the field. Additionally, Tony Rogolofoi batted 2-for-3 and added two runs.

AUSTRALIA

From Page 28

Wiser, tougher Socceroos

Australia was eliminated in the first round in its World Cup debut in 1974 in West Germany.

Thirty-two years later, the Socceroos surprised the world after placing second to five-time champion Brazil in the group stage, beating Asia powerhouse Japan and Croatia for a slot to the next round in Germany in 2006. Australia advanced to the Round of 16 before losing to eventual champion Italy on a late-minute goal from the Italians.

This year, Australia is back and will be parading most of the players who suited up for the Socceroos in Germany. These include goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, midfielderTim Cahill, Harry Kewell, Brett Emerton, Vince Grella, and Jason Culina

The games against Brazil, Japan, and Italy made the Aussies tougher and gave them more experience, which the Socceroos hope will be enough to lift them past the Round of 16.

Australia is drawn with Germany, Ghana, and Serbia and is favored to advance to the next round along with the Germans.

The Socceroos qualified for the World Cup through the Asian Confederation Football zone. They were one of the first AFC members to earn a ticket to South Africa. Australia topped Group A in AFC, slipped past Qatar, China, and Asian champions Iraq in qualifying stage, and once went undefeated in eight games.

Calling the shots for Australia is Dutchman Pim Verbeek, who led South Korea to the 2007 AFC Asian Cup. Verbeek is known for devising solid defense and pushing his players to the limits.

Australia was the first team to arrive in South Africa, making it to the host nation on May 26. The Socceroos hope to get acclimated soon and begin their mission.

"We have to go there and do it better than last time. I think you have to make targets in life and the players are going to do that also. We want to do better than last time, and we will do everything possible to do that," Verbeek was quoted as saying in the FIFA website.

Persistent Tall Whites

After its World Cup debut in 1982 in Spain, New Zealand strikers spent more than two decades trying to move out of the shadows of its rugby players.

The Tall Whites were inching closer to a trip to Germany in 2006 only to lose the World Cup berth to the Aussies. Australia and the Solomon Islands were the top two placers in the Oceania zone and were given the chance to challenge Uruguay for a slot in Germany. The Socceroos won over the Solomon Islands, 4-2, and then beat Uruguay to qualify.

Two years after another failed attempt at a World Cup stint, New Zealand tried again and this time topped the Oceania zone to earn the right to challenge Bahrain for a South Africa ticket. The Tall Whites eventually prevailed against the AFC fifth placed team, ending New Zealand's 27-year drought

Ricki Herbert was a player for the Tall Whites when New Zealand made its first appearance in World Cup and lost all its three game. Now, he is on his second World Cup stint, but this time as a coach and he vows to give the Tall Whites a respectable finish in South Africa.

"This group has given it everything, four years of total commitment. We're back," Herbert was quoted as saying in the FIFA website.

Herbert will be pinning his hopes on captain and centerback Ryan Nelsen, who is thankful for the tremendous support they are getting back home. Joining Nelson on the team is Oceania Player of the Year and Australian A-League top-scorer Shane Smeltz.

"It is not what we are used to in New Zealand, but in the few days we had at home before we left the whole country was really positive and really behind us. It is unprecedented compared to what we are used to. We are now riding a nice little wave with a couple of good results and the country believes that we are a decent team and can be really competitive so it's really exciting," Nelsen was quoted as saying in the FIFA website.

New Zealand is drawn with defending champion Italy, Slovakia, and Paraguay.

MICRO

From Page 28

Courts, triathlon at the Palau Pacific Resort; beach volleyball at Long Island Beach; indoor volleyball at the Palau High School Gymnasium; and weightlifting at the Kalau Gymnasium. Venues for table tennis and wrestling competitions are expected to be announced this month.

The seventh edition of the Micro Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10 with Palau expecting 1,200 athletes and officials participating in the 10-day event.

Baklai vowed to give visiting athletes and officials and their supporters a great time in Palau.

"This July, we will see sports performances and competitions amongst youth of Micronesia at its best. There will be great venues and wonderful hospitality of the Palau community," he said.

"We are encouraging our guests to visit our famous rock islands and scuba diving areas, drive around the beautiful scenic Babeldaob (main island) road, visit accessible famous historical sites of Palau, enjoy the great island food, and exchange cultures among 10 participating nations. Palau would be the best place to be during the Micronesian Games—to really feel the Micronesian spirit through the Micronesian Games and the camaraderie among young people, their families, our sponsors, our community, and our leaders throughout Micronesia," he added.

This will be the second time that Palau is hosting the Micro Games. The first was in 1998.

The CNMI hosted the 2006 edition of the Games with Guam taking the overall championship, followed by the host, while Palau finished third. The Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, and Pohnpei), the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru also participated in the 6th Micronesian Games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, MIA	5	62	27	166	33.2
Anthony, DEN	6	64	50	184	30.7
Bryant, LAL	16	168	101	471	29.4
James, CLE	11	106	88	320	29.1
Rose, CHI	5	57	18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	58	40	160	26.7
Durant, OKC	6	43	54	150	25.0
Williams, UTA	10	67	89	243	24.3
Stoudemire, PHX	16	124	107	355	22.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	43	32	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	37	37	122	20.3
Gasol, LAL	16	122	76	320	20.0
Richardson, PHX	16	112	44	316	19.8
Boozer, UTA	10	89	19	197	19.7
Butler, DAL	6	43	25	118	19.7
Ginobili, SAN	10	58	58	194	19.4
Pierce, BOS	17	104	85	325	19.1
Aldridge, POR	6	40	33	114	19.0
Duncan, SAN	10	78	33	190	19.0
Nelson, ORL	14	91	51	266	19.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Thomas, CHA	15	24	.625
Howard, ORL	86	140	.614
Millsap, UTA	70	122	.574
Bynum, LAL	61	107	.570
Gasol, LAL	122	216	.565
Wade, MIA	62	110	.564
Nowitzki, DAL	58	106	.547
Boozer, UTA	89	168	.530
Noah, CHI	28	53	.528
Horford, ATL	67	128	.523

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Boozer, UTA	10	33	99	132	13.2
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Howard, ORL	14	38	117	155	11.1
Gasol, LAL	16	57	117	174	10.9
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Duncan, SAN	10	30	69	99	9.9
Odom, LAL	16	50	102	152	9.5
James, CLE	11	15	87	102	9.3
Horford, ATL	11	28	71	99	9.0
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	10	102	10.2
Nash, PHX	16	161	10.1
Rondo, BOS	17	170	10.0
James, CLE	11	84	7.6
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Bryant, LAL	16	99	6.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	18	.660	–
New York	32	20	.615	2 1/2
Toronto	31	23	.574	4 1/2
Boston	30	23	.566	5
Baltimore	15	37	.288	19 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	31	21	.596	–
Detroit	26	25	.510	4 1/2
Chicago	22	29	.431	8 1/2
Kansas City	22	31	.415	9 1/2
Cleveland	19	31	.380	11

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	27	24	.529	–
Oakland	28	25	.528	–
Los Angeles	26	28	.481	2 1/2
Seattle	20	31	.392	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	30	22	.577	–
Philadelphia	28	23	.549	1 1/2
Florida	27	26	.509	3 1/2
New York	27	26	.509	3 1/2
Washington	26	27	.491	4 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	31	22	.585	–
St. Louis	30	23	.566	1
Chicago	24	29	.453	7
Pittsburgh	22	31	.415	9
Milwaukee	21	31	.404	9 1/2
Houston	18	34	.346	12 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	31	21	.596	–
Los Angeles	30	22	.577	1
Colorado	28	24	.538	3
San Francisco	27	24	.529	3 1/2
Arizona	20	33	.377	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Florida 6, Milwaukee 4
Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 3
Houston 8, Washington 7
Cincinnati 9, St. Louis 8
N.Y. Mets 4, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 1, Arizona 0, 10 innings
Colorado 2, San Francisco 1, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 1
Cleveland 3, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 6
Boston 9, Oakland 4
Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 3
Texas 9, Chicago White Sox 6
Seattle 7, Minnesota 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

28th CNMI May Masters Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan, left, joins team event winners Rusty Musca, Percy Omechelang, Danny Robles, and Richard Leong in a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 28th CNMI May Masters Tournament last Sunday at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

From left, Guam's Felly Mandapat, Cherry Catbagan, Maddion Willis, and Leanne Rankin are all smiles after receiving the third place prize in the women's team event.

Women's team event champions, from left, Jerrie Valez, Gina Sablan, Gigi Zapanta, and Ron Cal pose with their trophies.

SBA president Jerry Tan, left, poses for a group photo with Guam's male bowlers, who finished second in the team event.

Men's doubles champions Alex Castro, left, and Robert Talavera carded a total of 1,308 pinfalls after playing three games each.

Women's doubles champions Maddison Willis, left, and Arlene Taitague totaled 1,075 pinfalls.

Singles winner Raymond Angeles, right, poses with SBA president Jerry Tan after receiving a trophy and cash prize.

Men's division all events first placer Keith Guerrero of Guam shows his trophy.

Women's division all events first placer Diane Camacho, right, collected 1,640 pinfalls.

Lyn Santos, left, and Gloria Omechelang won third place in the women's doubles.

Federer stunned by Soderling at French Open

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

7 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

Falcons repeat as Big League champs

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trailing by one in the sixth inning, the 2009 champion Falcons pulled off a late two-run rally and held on to stuff the 2009 runner-up Fielders in the seventh to win the 2010 Saipan Little League Big Division championship, 3-2, last Tuesday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The visiting Fielders managed a runner at third in the top of the first, but the Falcons bit down and denied them access to the plate.

Then in the bottom half, Josh Jones singled in Tony Rogolofoi, who reached with a two-out double, to give the Falcons an early 1-0 lead.

The Fielders left another runner stranded at third in the top of the second, while the Falcons only managed a runner to first in the bottom half.

Then the 2010 Big League strikeout king Josh Jones struck out the side in the top half for the Falcons, but both teams

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WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

The Falcons won the 2010 Saipan Little League Big Division championship and successfully defended their title against the Fielders, 3-2, Tuesday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Patriots, Ol'Aces dispute Junior League crown

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces breezed by the Fielders in five innings and advanced to the championship game where they will face the undefeated pennant champions Patriots this Saturday at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Cody Kaipat led off for the visiting Fielders with a single and scored off a wild pitch to give the Fielders a brief one-run lead, but in the bottom half, the Ol'Aces immediately loaded the bases with a walk and two singles. Then, still with zero outs, Franklin Camacho cleared the bases with a three-RBI single before scoring himself off a wild pitch.

The score remained 4-1, Aces until the bottom of the third when a huge 10-run inning by the Ol'Aces busted the game open.

Franklin Camacho got plunked to start the third and scored later off a wild pitch. A base hit later, T.J. Sablan belted a two-run homer that brought around Jeremy Lizama with him to the dish.

An out later, Jesse Santos and R.J. Falig reached off errors and scored off a two-RBI single by Shane DL Guerrero. Then Jonah Flores and A.J. Lizama reached off an error and a walk that set up a two-RBI single by Franklin Cama-

See PATRIOTS on Page 26

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

The Patriots, left, will meet the Ol'Aces, right, for the 2010 Saipan Little League Junior Division championship after beating the Red Sox and the Fielders, respectively, last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Micro Games facilities to be ready by July

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

"Tia de Preril" The Micronesian Games Organizing Committee assured participating island-nations to the 7th Micronesian Games that preparations for the quadrennial event are on track and all facilities will be ready a month before the competition kicks off in Palau.

"Most facilities have always been ready, there is ongoing work on improvements and refurbishments on facilities and they will be all ready in July for the Games in August," said Palau National Olympic Committee secretary general Baklai Temengil.

When asked to gauge Palau's preparation for the Games, from 1 to 10 with 10 the highest Temengil said 10, explaining various committees are doing their best to ensure a successful hosting of the Micro Games.

The Micronesian Games Organizing Committee had initially listed 12 venues for the 15 sports to be played in the Games. The opening and closing ceremonies and athletics competition will be held at the Palau National Track and Field in Koror, which will also be the main hub of the multi-sports meet.

Baseball is scheduled to be played at the Asahi Ballfield; basketball at the Palau National Gymnasium; canoe racing at the Meyuns Seaplane Ramp; fast-pitch softball at the Meyuns Ballfield; Micro All-around at Kayangel State; spearfishing drop-off at Malakal; swimming at the 25-meter pool Palau National Swimming Pool; lawn tennis at the Airai Tennis

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Australia, New Zealand aim for better showing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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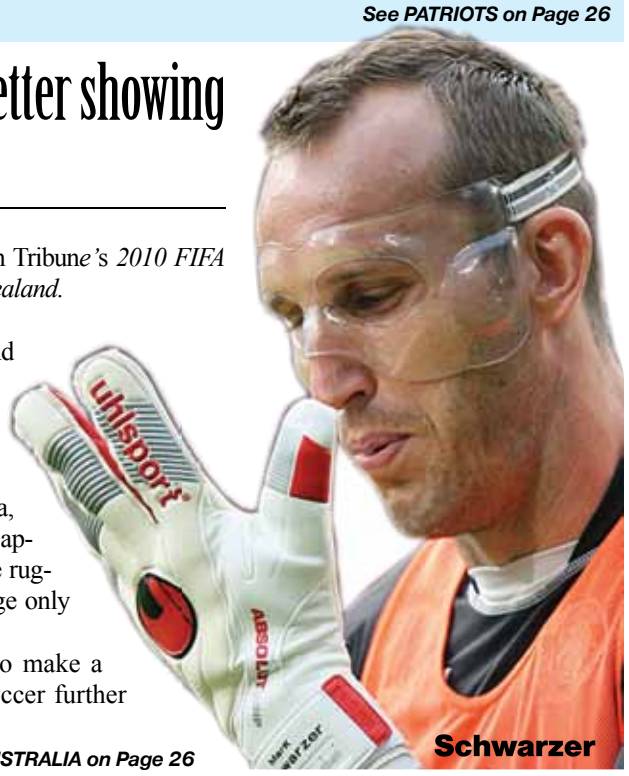
REPORTER

Editor's note: The last two teams to be profiled in Saipan Tribune*'s 2010 FIFA World Cup primer will be Oceania's Australia and New Zealand.*

Soccer is not as popular for Aussies and Kiwis as it is in Europe and Africa, thus it is no longer surprising that these two Oceania countries share weak World Cup history.

Before the event in South Africa, Australia, which is an Australian football-crazed nation, appeared in World Cup only twice (1974 and 2006), while rugby-mad New Zealand had been to soccer's football stage only once (1982).

This month, the Socceroos and All Whites hope to make a better impression in South Africa to help promote soccer further in their home turf.

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